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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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THE OKON LADS
Frank Scicluna P12

SBS 5 HOURS WORLD CUP SPECIAL

Ferenc Puskas rides the waves

Vedran Rozic speaks out in favour of more corporate aid

SPONSORS!

BY KEITH GILMOUR

VEDRAN ROZIC, the man who adorned the game for more than five years with Sydney Croatia, issued a call to senior soccer clubs to keep pressing for additional sponsors.

After his term as player-coach and a total of 17 non-stop years in the game, Rozic is relaxing in Sydney before returning to Yugoslavia with his family.

Rozic said: "I have seen considerable progress in the game over the past two or three years, although last season's standard was down a little.

"With the existing level of crowd support Australia needs more businessmen assisting the clubs financially.

"It will be very hard to stay on our present high level without this help.

"Players have to be paid well so that they can play football here professionally."

Rozic sensibly would not be drawn on crowd potentials for the first summer season.

"The quality of play cannot be gauged so far, because many clubs have new players who are yet to settle in.

"In addition we are yet to see what will happen in December-January," he added.

But the former Sydney Croatia defender hopes that the NSL can remain as one competition.

"If it does, Australia will not have to worry over the strength of the National team," he believes.

"In my view the Socceroos are in the throes of overcoming the era in which players like Joe Watson, Zarko Odzakov and John Kosmina ruled the roost.

"Now they are well and truly off the scene we will find proper replacements provided that the level of club football is high."

When it comes to the post of National Director of Coaching, Rozic is quite forthnight.

"Get a man who has top experience as both a player and a coach in Australia.

"He must know the local scene and all the better if he has national team level experience.

"Being an excellent organiser would help but remember it is hard to find a person who is everything rolled into one."

Rozic has done more than his share for the game in Australia, and anything he has to say should be well noted by the powers that be.

Here Rozic directs the traffic as he and Wally Savor seek to put the clamps on ace striker Warren Spink of Preston.

FANS HAVE THEIR SAY

An overwhelming 86.2% of respondents voted in favour of "summer" soccer in the ASW poll last week.

Time, of course, will tell whether fans are going to back their opinion with bums on seats.

*This week's **OPINION LINE** topic is the forthcoming appointment of a **DIRECTOR OF COACHING.***

Opinions in the media vary between those in favour of a LOCAL appointment, or an OVERSEAS appointment.

For a LOCAL fans may vote YES on ☐ 0055 20526.

Those in favour of an overseas appointee can VOTE No on ☐ 0055 20527.

— JOHN WARREN

APIA newcomer Jason van Blerk is shielded away by Wollongong's ever present Jock Morlando last Saturday at Lambert Park. HECTOR CARRASCO Pic.

Jeff Olver — odd man out

BY GREG BLAKE

BETWEEN the sticks Jeff Olver is a superbly confident and more than capable goalkeeper.

Indeed, the past nine years at NSL, state and national level have proved Olver to be one of Australia's all-time greats.

But right now the usual Olver confidence has deserted him.

Not on the field where this young veteran of 28 is still, arguably, the best in the country.

But off the field where, no matter how hard he tries to hide it, he is hurting.

Olver has missed his first NSL kick-off since he was an untried rookie in 1980 and, despite publicly declaring his intention to stick out the hard times with relegated Heidelberg, there is no doubt an element of sadness for him as he watches the new season take shape.

"Obviously, I'm a bit sad at missing the first year of summer soccer but circumstances are as they are and there is nothing I can do," he told ASW.

And there is no doubt that Olver is prepared to stick it out at his club of nearly 10 years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mixed bag for Aussies in Europe

BY LOU GAUTIER

AUSTRALIAN players in Europe are experiencing mixed fortunes.

Frank Farina continues to be the toast of Belgium.

His dazzling form and goalscoring prowess — from a midfield position — have propelled FC Brugge to within striking distance of leaders Anderlecht and second placed Mechelen.

Farina tops the goalscoring list with nine goals, two more than Anderlecht's world-class Belgian international Marc De-Grijse.

Belgian newspapers describe the Socceroo as the revelation of the season and one of the country's very best imports — and that is some compliment considering there are no less than 70 foreigners in the First Division alone.

Jim Patikas, who had a goal disallowed against Marseille in the first leg of the second round European Champions' Cup tie, was again rated as AEK's best striker in the return leg in Athens, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Patikas once more came close to scoring, when a 20-metre drive just shaved the Marseille post.

Eddie Krncevic, however, is not doing so well.

He has been playing for Mulhouse in total anonymity ever since transferring from Anderlecht for $1.8 million.

He has only scored three goals in 19 rounds and is averaging 4.5 points in the weekly ratings of FRANCE FOOTBALL (like ASW's, on a scale of 0 to 10).

Back in Greece, Jason Polak too is not setting the world on fire, and Terry Patalis' first team appearances at AEK have been few and far between, while David Mitchell is still cooling his heels in Chelsea's reserves.

The Aussie connection is faring much better in Finland.

As we told you two weeks ago, goalkeeper Sean Lahiff is now the regular first team custodian for vice-champions Koparit.

And a big future is also predicted for another goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, at Manchester United, while Queenslander Jason Kearton is serving his "apprenticeship with Everton as goalie Neville Southall's deputy.

The Belgian connection: Israel's Ronnie Rosental and Eli Ohana flank Frank Farina in Sydney earlier this year. The Israelis play for Standard Liege and Mechelen respectively, but the Socceroo star is doing much the better at FC Brugge.

Jimmy Patikas

GEORGE JOLEVSKI, the 20-year-old Preston defender, has been offered a chance to play with struggling Yugoslav First Division club Vardar.

Vardar, now coached by Andon Doncevski, has indicated its interest in signing the talented Jolevski for the remainder of this season and Preston is willing to negotiate his release.

All White star joins Ad City

NEW Zealand and Mt Maunganui striker Declan Edge has joined Adelaide City.

His coach and father, Eddie Edge, confirmed Declan will leave for Australia at the completion of Mt Maunganui's involvement in the top-five National League playoffs which began last Sunday week.

Mount defender David Anderson has also been approached by Adelaide, but is undecided on whether he will accept.

"He couldn't refuse it," Eddie Edge said of the Adelaide offer to Declan.

"It's a very good contract. They're a good club and it's now up to Declan.

"It won't make him a rich man. You have to go to Europe for that. But as long as he performs I'm sure he'll do well."

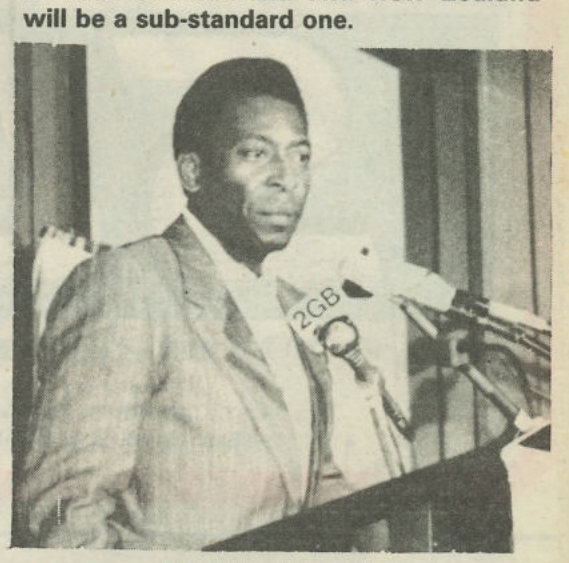
Edge declined to reveal any details of the contract other than to say that apart from German-based Wynton Rufer, it was likely to be the best offered to a New Zealand player.

However, the challenge for the 23-year-old, arguably the most talented player in New Zealand, would be settling in and overcoming any sense of homesickness that forced him to abandon a stint with English club Notts County three years ago.

Strong England for 1991 tour

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE English FA has denied New Zealand press reports that the team it is sending in 1991 to Australia and New Zealand will be a sub-standard one.



PELE: back in 1991.

England is due to play one game in Australia en route to New Zealand where it will take part in the New Zealand centenary celebrations.

FA spokesman Glenn Kirton told New Zealand's SOCCER EXPRESS English correspondent Bob Blair that England will be sending the best side available and the games will be full internationals.

Kirton said full caps would be awarded to English players who appear against Australia and New Zealand, but added he could not guarantee that every club will release every English international.

The great Pele and former England skipper Bobby Moore are slated to visit Australia and New Zealand in conjunction with the tour in June 1991.

The tour could be covered by all the top English soccer writers as it is likely that Bobby Robson will step down after next year's World Cup finals and there will be a lot of interest in the new man at the helm, who may well be unveiling his squad down under.

— LOU GAUTIER

TORPEDO DATES

THREE games have been settled for the January tour of Australia by strong Russian outfit, Torpedo Moscow.

They are v Northern NSW in Newcastle (Wed Jan 17), v Australia in Sydney (Friday Jan 19) and v Australia in Melbourne (Friday February 2).

One game will be played in Wollongong, which is a welcome return for the code to a centre that produced some excellent past crowds by involving local juniors as well as the sporting public.

The other match will be in either Perth or Adelaide.

National coach Frank Arok will soon be preparing his squad for the two Socceroo matches.

Napier win NZ title

NAPIER City defeated relegated Papatoetoe 2-1 in the final match of the season to win the New Zealand National League title on goal-difference from Mount Maunganui.

Both clubs finished on 55 points, but Napier clinched the championship by the slenderest of margins — one goal.

Napier City had a goal-difference of +21 as against their rivals' +20.

You couldn't have asked for a closer finish.

Noel Barkley was top scorer with 24 goals. Runner-up was Blacktown City's new signing Gary Parker.

The final New Zealand National League table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Napier City	26	16	7	3	57	36	55
Mt Maunganui	26	16	7	3	38	18	55
Mt Wellington	26	16	4	6	62	30	52
Waitakere	26	15	5	6	51	35	50
Hutt Valley	26	13	4	9	45	38	43
Christchurch	26	12	6	8	48	33	42
Wellington U	26	12	4	10	42	38	40
Waikato Utd	26	8	11	7	31	31	35
Manurewa	26	8	7	10	34	38	33
North Shore	26	7	4	15	46	59	23
Miramar R	26	5	8	13	40	43	23
Waterside K	26	5	5	16	38	58	20
Gisborne City	26	4	7	15	26	66	18
Papatoetoe	26	3	5	18	26	61	14

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—Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is Thursday morning of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date.

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For further details, please contact:

Mr Scott Murray ... 550 6124
Mr Mark Williams ...
(a.h.) 552 2210

Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunshine GC	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
Blacktown City	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Adelaide City	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
St George BSC	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
South Melbourne	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
APIA Leichhardt	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Melbourne Croatia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Preston Makedonia	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Marconi Fairfield	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Wollongong City	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Sydney Olympic	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Parramatta Melita	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
West Adelaide	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Sydney Croatia	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Results

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (J. Mullen) PARRAMATTA MELITA 1 (W. Gonzalez) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 1200.
WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (P. McFadden, D. Crainie) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (P. Murray) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1079.
PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 WEST ADELAIDE 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 3842.
ST GEORGE BSC 2 (Z. Illic, A. Harper) Sydney Croatia 1 (G. Arnold) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 3692.
BLACKTOWN CITY 3 (R. Maier 2, Z. Arambasic) MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1 (V. Colagiuri) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 2476.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (A. Saad) MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (J. Markovski) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3149.
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 2 (O. Latif 2) SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 6100.

Top Scorers

Ossie latif	(Sunshine GC)	3
Ralph Maier	(Blacktown City)	3
Rod Brown	(APIA Leichhardt)	2
Peter Katholos	(Marconi)	1
Vince Colagiuri	(Marconi)	1
Paul Lewis	(Sunshine GC)	1
Kim Taliadoros	(Sth Melbourne)	1
Paul Trimboli	(Sth Melbourne)	1
Paul Wade	(Sth Melbourne)	1
Peter Tsolakis	(Sth Melbourne)	1
Carl Veart	(Adelaide City)	1
Aurelio Vidmar	(Adelaide City)	1
Joe Mullen	(Adelaide City)	1
Washington Gonzalez	(P'matta Melita)	1
Dannie Crainie	(Wollongong City)	1
Paul McFadden	(Wollongong City)	1
Peter Murray	(APIA Leichhardt)	1
Tony Krslovic	(St George BSC)	1
Zoran Illic	(St George BSC)	1
Andy Harper	(St George BSC)	1
Graham Arnold	(Sydney Croatia)	1
Zlatko Arambasic	(Blacktown City)	1
Abbas Saad	(Sydney Olympic)	1
John Markovski	(Melbourne Croatia)	1

Crowds

ROUND 2: 21,538
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,077
TOTAL ATENDANCE: 47,841
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 23,921

Team of the week

S. KEOGH (Sunshine George Cross)
P. CARTER (Blacktown City)
C. YANKOS (Blacktown City)
Z. TASEVSKI (Preston Makedonia)
A. MARTH (Melbourne Croatia)
J. CALETA (Melbourne Croatia)
A. HARPER (St George BSC)
J. MULLEN (Adelaide City)
O. LATIF (Sunshine George Cross)
A. BUNDALO (APIA Leichhardt)
G. GUNNING (Blacktown City)

Player of the Week

JOE CALETA (Melbourne Croatia)

Andy Koczka back for Saints

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

ST GEORGE coach Frank Arok firmly expects star sweeper Andy Koczka to make an early return to bolster the Saints' defence for their important clash with champions Marconi on Friday night.

Koczka's inclusion will be a huge boost for the young Saints, who once again have started the season with a bang, recording three points out of four.

However Tony Krslovic and Andy Harper picked up niggly injuries against Sydney Croatia last Saturday, and their places in the side will depend on the outcome of treatment during the week.

Marconi's shock defeat at Blacktown should be just the tonic needed to encourage them to to bounce back this week.

Having had a successful European tour, victory in the Charity Cup and a first up win against grand finalists Sydney Olympic, Marconi were on a huge roll up until the unscheduled loss.

Arok is cautious when discussing his side's prospects against the champions. "It may well depend on how the ball bounces for us," he suggests.

He is disappointed that his team — full of enthusiasm and running — didn't get the first chance at cracking the champions, but the Saints will attack Marconi with due caution as he is only too well aware of their abilities.

An interesting footnote for Arok to keep in mind is that Marconi has lost their second weeks match 3-1 to so called lowly opposition for the past three seasons.

Yet Marconi has won the last two championship.

Sydney Croatia will welcome Alan Hunter back from suspension when they tackle leaders Sunshine this Saturday but may miss Ante Rumora, who limped off against St George last weekend.

The match kicks off at 7pm at the Croatian Sports Centre, with coach Ron Corry hinting a reshuffle is needed to get the young side back on the rails after their worst start to the season in recent memory.

Corry will look to Hunter, Ricoy and Arnold to show the way against a cocky Sunshine, who downed the high flying South Melbourne last Sunday in one of the two shock results of the round.

Also on Saturday evening Wollongong City will take on Preston at Brandon Park, kicking off at 6pm.

Dragon Pupovac, who was signed from NSW State League club Warringah, clears the danger as Apia team mate Bruce Halliday attempts a header. Photo by HECTOR CARRASCO.

David Ratcliffe is looking to consolidate following last week's win at Apia, although history is against the Wolves, as they have beaten Preston only once in 10 meetings.

Ratcliffe is very pleased with his new State League signings, keeper Dragan Pupovac and striker Paul McFadden, along with the clever striker Danny Crainie who has never played better.

Crainie however was injured at APIA and may miss the action against Preston.

Peter Kotamanidis is pencilled in as Crainie's replacement should the Wolves ace not prove fit by the weekend.

Although Preston will have Steve Jackson back after his suspension, the Melbourne side is desperate to regain Warren Spink (injured) and also secure Oscar Crino, who is sidelined by the red taped inability of transferred Victorian players to be registered before December 1.

There is a particular difficulty as Andrew Zinni picked up a heavy knock last week against Adelaide Hellas.

Preston has neither scored nor conceded a goal in their two outings to date. Ratcliffe is happy enough with his defence to feel the Wolves can at least continue that trend.

South Melbourne play host to Adelaide City on Sunday, with the high flying Puskas led outfit recuperating from last week's defeat at Sunshine.

Adcity coach Zoran Matic is well aware of Hellas' potential but is confident of gaining a favourable result, despite dropping a point at home to newcomers Melita last weekend.

Matic has Milan Ivanovich and Sergio Melta in trouble for the game.

Ivanovich will have x-rays on a suspected broken nose while Melta has problems with a hamstring injury.

If Ivanovich is not fit Paul Shillabeer will come into the side and Alex Tobin will move back to sweeper.

This should be the match of the round with two of the best attacking sides in the league meeting head on. The kick off is 6pm at Middle Park.

Manfred Schaefer has suffered mixed fortunos after two rounds in charge at Apia — a win over Adelaide Hellas followed by a loss last week to a determined Wollongong.

This leaves Apia in the middle of the field.

This Sunday Schaefer's side will take on newly promoted Melita at Melita Stadium, with the Eagles soaring high after they gained a valuable point at Adelaide City last weekend.

With Alex Bundalo producing his best form last week, Schaefer believes that if Apia can continue on from their second half display against the Wolves they will have close to a worry free season.

Blacktown will travel to Melbourne for the first time this season, with a fair measure of confidence following their stunning 3-1 victory over champions Marconi.

They meet Melbourne Croatia at Somers St on Sunday at 6pm.

With Geoff Gunning, Zlatko Arambasic and Charlie Yankos beginning to find their way at Blacktown, Melbourne Croatia canot expect to have it all their own way.

With successive draws the Melbourne side is yet to set the world on fire.

In the only two matches ever played between the two sides, Blacktown won on both occasions last season.

However Yankos and Paul Carter must close down Croatia's deadly duo of Francis Awaritefe and John Markovski if they are to salvage any decent result from their trip south.

Sydney Olympic will have Robert Hooker and Andrew Bernal back for the big Greek Derby against Adelaide Hellas in Adelaide on Friday at 8pm.

Bernal could take a midfield spot.

Both sides picked up their first points last weekend against difficult Melbourne opposition and will be looking for their first win.

Olympic, with all their experience at the top level, should take home the points in a tight one before what should be a big crowd at Hindmarsh Stadium.

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Penalties by Ralph Maier finish Marconi Fairfield

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

TWO penalties in the space of three minutes just before half-time time paved the way for Blacktown City's shock-3-1 defeat of NSL champions Marconi at a rain-soaked Gabbie Stadium last Saturday evening.

This unexpected but thoroughly deserved victory would have given Blacktown City officials something to smile about after the disappointments of seeing their huge efforts in promoting their first home fixture ruined by miserable weather conditions.

Coach Les Scheinflug was full of praise for his new-look side after the match when he said: "We knew we had the plan to topple the champions but needed total commitment from every player.

'Irrespective of the penalty decisions, we did more than enough to earn the points and could have easily won by a greater margin."

The Demons followed Scheinflug's simple game plan to perfection.

Bustle Marconi off their stride in the midfield, pressure fullbacks Robbie Wheatley and Jean Paul de Marigny to stop them from chiming into attack and keep potential match winner Zlatko Nastevski under tight control.

Marconi rejects Paul Carter and Geoff Gunning figured prominently in Blacktown's upset victory. Carter did not give Nastevski an inch to show his usual brilliance while Gunning combined his aggressive runs with some touches of unexpected vision.

Gunning stamped his authority on the game in the first 20 minutes when Blacktown twice came close to taking the lead. His through-ball behind the Marconi defence set Arambasic on his way but he chipped his attempt wide of the post. Gunning then found space on the left and squared the ball for young John Gibson to let fly with a rocket from the edge of the area which had 'goal' written all over it but was deflected for a corner.

On one of the rare occasions that Nastevski managed to slip Carter, he eased his way past Charlie Yankos and had a snap shot which whistled wide of the top corner. This turned out to be one of the few times in the entire 90 minutes that a well-marshalled Blacktown defence was opened up.

Although Yankos is still a fair way from hitting top form, his influence in tightening up the back-four is already evident.

When Gunning's powerful header was kept out by Bobby Catlin in the 31st minute Marconi appeared to have survived the Demons' inspired onslaught.

But two crucial decisions by Canberra referee David Willcocks virtually assured Marconi's downfall.

Gunning again found Gibson in the area three minutes before the break, forcing Steve Calderan to bring him down. Catlin managed to get one hand to Ralph Maier's penalty but could not stop Blacktown taking the lead.

Before Marconi knew what hit them Catlin was again beaten by Maier from the spot after Willcocks had adjuged him to have brought down Gunning.

Facing a 2-0 halftime deficit the champions had a mountain to climb in the second period but a flat and possibly demoralised Marconi never looked like getting back.

Eight minutes later the break, the ball game was all but over. Darren Northam found Arambasic completely unmarked in the middle of the area and calmly slipped the ball beneath the advancing Caltin.

Arambasic went close again in the 65th minute when he crashed his drive against the crossbar after Gunning won the ball from a hesitant Paul Okon.

Substitute Vince Colagiuri finally got Marconi on the scoreboard in the last five minutes with a cracking 20-metre drive but in the end it proved to be little more than a token consolation.

The two best performed players of the match, Danny Crainie of Wollongong at left and Alex Bundalo of Apia, excelled in Saturday's Lambert Park encounter. HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Blacktown		Marconi	
Londos	6	Catlin	6
Carter	7	Okon	4
Yankos	7	de Marigny	5
Reynolds	6	Calderan	5
Northam	6	Wheatley	5
Longo	6	Gomez	4
Gibson	7	(Colagiuri 70m)	
Maier	6	McCulloch	6
Jee	5	Nastevski	5
(Glenn 83m)		de Jong	5
Arambasic	6	Katholos	5
Gunning	8	(Gray 59m)	
		Lowe	5

Scorers: Maier 42 & 45 mins — penalties, Arambasic 53m for Blacktown; Colagiuri 85m for Marconi.
Yellow card: Gray 87m for Marconi.
Referee: D. Willcocks 5.
Crowd: 2,476.

Sydney Croatia fall for astute Arok trap

BY KEITH GILMOUR

JUDGING by Saturday night's displayed at the Croatian Sports Centre, Sydney Croatia will strike some harrowing times before they come good.

On this occasion they were humiliated towards the end by a solid St George line-up that came away with a 2-1 win.

The suspension of Alan Hunter was one thing, but the continuing loss of midfielders Velemir Kupresac and Steve Gojevic until December 1 due to a registration cock up could continue to cost them dearly.

Saints coach Frank Arok took his team into the game in the knowledge that it had the strength to dominate towards the end.

And that is the way it turned out.

But even the astute Arok was hardly prepared for experienced ex-Socceroo Wally Savor to be comprehensively beaten by Scott Ollerenshaw in the run up to the 79th minute winning goal.

Ollerenshaw was quick to transfer from left to right and Andy Harper struck a ball home that flew in off a defender.

Harper is showing out as a very valuable player, and proved a real winner along with Matthew Bingley, who excelled with his speedy runnign through the middle.

The scoreless first half was relatively even. At the 20th minute Bingley saved one with his head and immediately afterwards worked the ball from just outside the goal area to the safety of the sideline.

For Croatia Ante Rumora turned the ball off his line from a long raking cross by Ollerenshaw.

Graham Arnold slid the ball home in the 56th minute after Saints keeper John Filan had seen his throw intercepted.

But suddenly David Green was unattended and constantly overlapping on the right, and Croatia could find no answer at all.

In the 70th minute Zoran Ilic hit a superb 25 metre shot from the right that flew into the far side of the net.

It came as no surprise when Harper followed up, giving St George a handy three points from the first four.

Rod Brown (Apia) manages to get his 'back'-header in over Wollongong's Jock Morlando as Ray Vlietstra (right) looks on.
Pix by HECTOR CARRASCO.

Sydney Croatia		St George	
Krajnovic	5	Filan	5
Savor	4	*Green*	6
Babic	4	*Morakeas*	4
Jones	6	Spanoudakis	6
Popovic	6	Moffitt	5
Ricoy	6	O'Shea	6
Rumora	5	Harper	7
(Zelic 65m)		Krslovic	6
Grbevski	5	Bingley	7
Arnold	6	Ilic	6
Seal	6	Ollerenshaw	6
Lamond	5		

Scorers: Arnold 56m for Croatia; Ilic 70m, Harper 79m for St George.
Yellow card: Ricoy 34m, Lamond 44m for Sydney Croatia; Krslovic 52m, O'Shea 61m, Ollerenshaw 82m for St George.
Referee: G. Power 8.
Crowd: 3,692.

Demons continued promotions despite inclement weather

BY PETER ENGLAND

ONE of Sydney's biggest club match promotions came adrift when Sydney's Seven Hills district was deluged following a thunder storm prior to last Saturday's Blacktown City-Marconi Fairfield game.

Some of the pre-match entertainment had to be cancelled and barbecues and soft drink stalls were washed out.

There is some sort of hex on the Demons.

It was a repeat of the atrocious conditions when Bobby Charlton played a guest game back in 1980.

Back in 1984 Kevin Keegan's appearance saw only a 4,000 crowd after the heavens opened up.

The silver lining on that occasion was the following week, when his appearance resulted in ground full signs at Marconi Stadium.

This time around Blacktown marketing manager Terry Seacy said: "With the team playing as well as it is and with players of the Charlie Yankos calibre, I believe the people of the Western Suburbs will now support the club in their numbers.

"Blacktown is a family club, and Craig Johnston has promised to visit us.

"Saturday week's home game against Adelaide Hellas will be promoted on the same lines as the Marconi game.

"The 2WS sponsorship will be a huge help and there will be team news on their news bulletins.

"Demons' reviews will go to air every Thursday at 6.40am and be repeated at 5.40pm.

"Latest scores will be given on Saturday evenings and Sunday morning news reports.

"Celebrity games will continue, as will shopping centre promotions."

NORTHERN NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LIMITED

COACHES & MANAGERS

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS U/13, YOUTH AND SENIOR 1990

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation Limited is inviting applications for the above positions of Coaches & Managers. Applications must be in writing and addressed to:

The Secretary
P.O. Box 156
ADAMSTOWN, NSW 2289

Applications close on Friday, 1st December, 1989.

COACHES WANTED

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The above Club, playing in the NSW State League competition, now seeks applications from qualified Coaches for our 1st Grade squad and our Under 19s squad.

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☎ (02) 764 7371
(During business hours)

Melita gain valuable point

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE CITY launched their first NSL home game of the season on Friday with a champagne breakfast in The Terrace.

Joe Mullen Adelaide City's goalscorer.

But the celebrations fell a little flat in the evening at Hindmarsh-when newcomers Melita Eagles shocked the fancied home side by securing their first NSL point.

The visitors were well worth the reward.

Coach Raul Blanco has developed an uncomplicated, but effective style, making full use of his stylish players.

Alfredo Barrios and Washington Gonzales form a South American rock in defence. There is one-touch creation in midfield and bustling Tony Parison and highly impressive Greg Brown will threaten any side up front.

With City in adventurous mood in the opening half, and star sweeper Milan Ivanovich strangely hesitant in defence, Melita had openings to exploit.

Parison hit the bottom of the post and Aytec Genc slipped a toe poke just wide as Melita cavalry-charged into attack from long balls from defence.

Only a Gonzalez goal separated the sides at half-time. But what a goal!

He blazed home a 35-metre free-kick after Neville Flounders fouled Brown.

City's final pass fell flat in the first half but they lifted after the break and Melita knew they were in a ball game in the 46th minute when subdued Aurelio Vidmar struck the bar with a fierce drive.

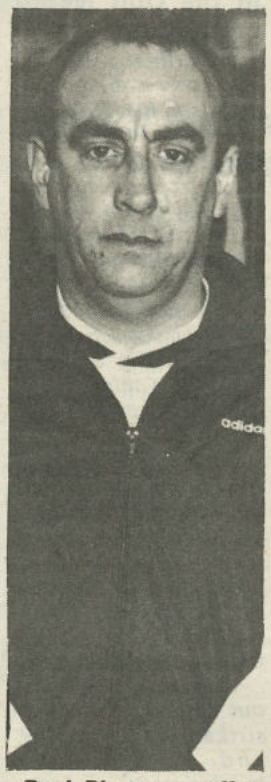
Young Carl Veart then hit high when in good position in the 51st but the equaliser only was delayed five minutes.

Flounders headed an Adrian Santrac deflected free-kick into the box and Joe Mullen shot home with a spectacular high-flying volley.

Home fans expected a goal rush, but though City stormed the Melita goal, they could not find another opening.

Out of touch Steve Maxwell was unlucky to drive over and Veart missed in front of goal after skilfully controlling an awkward ball in the box.

But, with Barrios and Gonzales outstanding in defence, Melita held firm and looked like a side that may surprise many away from home with their pacy counter-attacks.



Raul Blanco — effective style.

Adelaide City		Melita Eagles	
Zabica	6	McPherson	6
T. Vidmar	4	Callanan	5
Tobin	6	Meerbani	5
Ivanovich	5	Barrios	7
(Shillabeer 87m)		Gonzalez	7
Flounders	7	Mason	5
Melta	4	(O'Donnell 59m)	
Santrac	5	Gimenez	4
Mullen	7	(Farrugia 70m)	
Maxwell	4	Cerro	5
A. Vidmar	4	Parison	5
Veart	4	Genc	4
		Brown	7

Scorers: Gonzalez 11m for Melita; Mullen 56m for Adelaide City.

Yellow cards: A. Vidmar 42m for Adelaide City; Parison 41m, Callanan 50m, Gimenez 70m for Melita.

Referee: Jim Rossis 5.

Crowd: 3,900.

Olympic escape against Melbourne Croatia

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MELBOURNE CROATIA showed more than enough in their 1-1 draw with Sydney Olympic at St George Stadium on Sunday night to indicate they will be a strong contender for the NSL crown held by Marconi.

And as Melbourne's coach Ivan Raznjevic commented after the match: "We can only get stronger as we still have Zeljko Adzic, Paul Donnelly and Josip Biskic to come into the side".

Their left midfielder Joe Caleta almost stole the show in the 94th minute when he streaked away onto a lovely flat ball from skipper Alan Davidson, but Caleta's final drive ricochetted off Olympic's left post.

Melbourne's midfield quartet of John Markovski, Ivan Duzel, Branko Milosevic and Caleta all moved zealously into their tackles, and broke quickly when attacking.

Twin strikers Francis Awaritefe and Ivan Kelic were quite deceptive on the break and should easily be able to puncture any defence in the League.

Sydney Olympic badly missed the organisational qualities of suspended sweeper and captain Robbie Hooker.

The match overall was not a great spectacle. It was marred by too many fouls, mostly by Melbourne Croatia, which forced a reluctant referee John McConnell to issue no less than six yellow cards, five of which went to the Victorians.

Croatia hit the lead as early as in the sixth minute with a shock goal that shattered Olympic's composure.

Strongly built left midfielder Markovski fired a free-kick from 20 metres out which took a nasty deflection off Olympic's defensive wall to cannon into the net with keeper Gosling off balance.

In the 16th minute the Victorians almost nailed their second, when Croatia striker Ivan Kelic's lethal header was brilliantly saved by Gosling, who dived sharply across his line.

Olympic was denied a penalty when Joe Caleta handballed well inside the box. Fortunately for Croatia the referee failed to spot the incident.

Seven minutes from the break, Olympic stung back with a fabulous goal from roving midfield-striker, Abbas Saad.

Left-back Steve Georgakis slung a perfect cross from the touchline to the edge of the six yard box, and Saad raced in from deep midfield and scored with an elegant diving header to balance the books.

But the Vics should have hit the front just three minutes after drinks when their explosive striker Awaritefe streaked away on the right but his vicious inswinging left-footed drive rocked the crossbar.

Sydney Olympic's new striker from Canberra, Marko Perinovic, made an understandably quiet debut as he tried to find his feet, but he made his presence felt in the 56th minute with a first timed drive which cleared Croatia's cross-bar.

Best for Sydney Olympic were defenders Nick Plataniotis and Ironside, whilst Melbourne Croatia's best servants were Caleta, Awaretife and roaming left-back Andy Marth.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson stated after the match: "We missed Robbie Hooker and Andrew Bernal. Both should be back next week-end for our away match against Adelaide Hellas.

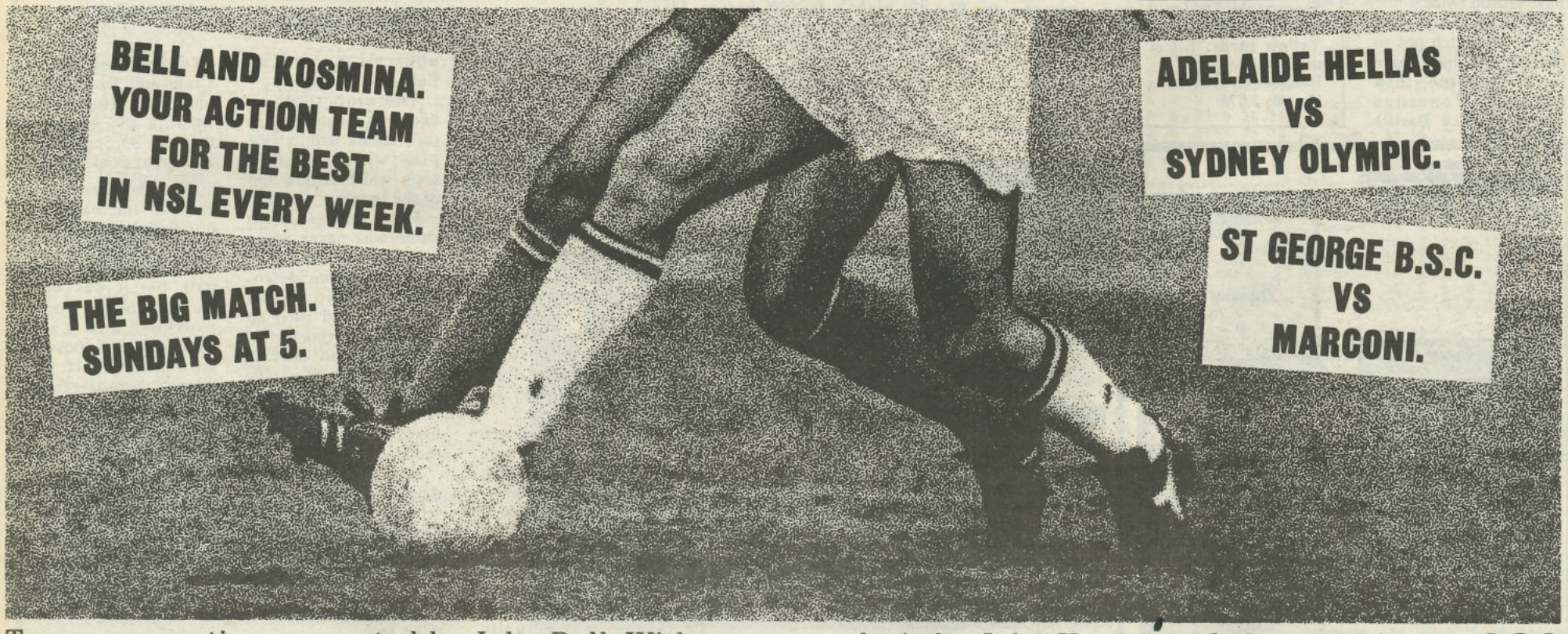
Sydney Olympic		Melbourne Croatia	
Gosling	7	Rados	6
Barrett	6	Davidson	6
Ironside	7	Selemidis	6
Plataniotis	7	Hannah	6
Georgakis	6	Marth	7
(Koch 64m)		Caleta	8
Pontidas	6	Duzel	6
Phillips	6	Milosevic	6
Saad	6	Markovski	6
Lee	6	Awaritefe	7
Hagan	6	Kelic	6
(Hristodoulou 74m)		(Horvat 75m)	
M. Perinovic	5		

Scorers: Markovski 6m for Melb Croatia; Saad 38m for Sydney Olympic.

Yellow cards: Markovski 21m, Duzel 21m, Kelic 31m, Davidson 61m, Awaritefe 72m for Melb Croatia; Perinovic 21m for Sydney Olympic.

Referee: J. McConnell 6.

Crowd: 3,149.



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Crainie inspires Wollongong

BY LOU GAUTIER

TWO well-executed first half goals laid the foundation for Wollongong City's hard-earned 2-1 win over Apia Leichhardt at Lambert Park last Saturday.

Wollongong player-coach David 'Bronson' Ratcliffe comes in to restore frayed tempers in the Wolves-Apia match at Lambert Park. — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

Danny Crainie made the first and scored the second in a brilliant display, helping his team to two precious points which could come handy at the business end of the season.

After Apia had started full of fire, the Wolves asserted themselves and grabbed the lead in the 14th minute.

A jinking run by Crainie ended in a pinpoint cross, which deflected off Randell Easthorope and landed at the feet of Paul McFadden, who slotted the ball past Tony Pezzano.

The Apia goal enjoyed a charmed life in the next five minutes when the visitors could have scored twice.

First Pezzano was forced to stretch out to parry a low, hard drive from Easthorpe, then Graham Jennings saved a Mike Lardis header off the Apia line.

It came as a no surprise when just seconds before the interval, Crainie capped his superb first half display with a magnificent solo goal.

After another dazzling raid on the right flank, his vicious shot was parried by Pezzano. Crainie, who had followed the action, was on the spot to collect the rebound for goal Number 2.

Whatever coach Manfred Schafer told his team at the break brought immediate results.

The second half was the complete opposite of the first, with Apia in control for the entire 45 minutes.

If Crainie dominated the first half, Alex Bundalo was the man of the second.

After coming close to scoring the the 53rd minute, his perfect cross in the 67th found the head of onrushing defender Peter Murray, and Apia had pegged back a goal and looked set to at least share the points before time ran out.

But it was not to be.

Bundalo had a chance to make it 2-2 in the 79th minute, but his shot was off-target, and in the final two minutes the rampaging Apia vainly bombarded the Wollongong goal.

Goalkeeper Dragan Popovac was equal to the task. Actually, along with Crainie and City's other new boy, Paul McFadden, he was the pick of a gallant Wollongong side who may again confound the experts in 1989/90.

As for Apia, if they can reproduce their second half form they too may do much better than predicted.

Apia		Wollongong City	
Pezzano	5	Pupovac	6
Murray	5	Skeen	6
Jennings	5	Lloyd	5
Stewart	6	(Allport 73)	
Halliday	6	Ratcliffe	5
Okon	5	Vlietstra	5
(Clinch 69m)		Morlando	5
Ellem	5	Lardis	4
Blagojevic	4	(Kotaminidis 82m)	
(M. Brown 45m 5)		Hristovski	5
R. Brown	4	Easthorpe	5
Bundalo	7	McFadden	6
van Blerk	5	Crainie	7

Scorers: McFadden 14m, Crainie 44m for Wollongong; Murray 67m for Apia.

Yellow cards: Ellem 54m for Apia, Hristovski 65m for Wollongong.

Referee: R. Lorenc 7.

Crowd: 1,079.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL NSL TEAMS AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANNUAL AT LEADING NEWSAGENTS NOW

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE GAMES

ROUND 3

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17			
St George BSC	v	Marconi Fairfield	St George Stadium 7.30pm
Adelaide Hellas	v	Sydney Olympic	Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18			
Sydney Croatia	v	Sunshine GC	Croatian Spts Centre 7pm
Wollongong City	v	Preston Mak'	Brandon Park 5.30pm
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19			
South Melbourne	v	Adelaide City	Middle Park 5.30pm
P'matta Melita	v	APIA Leichhardt	Melita Stadium 7pm
Melbourne Croatia	v	Blacktown City	Somers Street 5.30pm

West Adelaide off the mark

BY JOHN MANGAN

ADELAIDE HELLAS came away from Preston Makedonia with exactly what they wanted — their first point in the Quit National League.

Nevertheless the 0-0 draw was a disappointment for the 3842 fans who broke the Sunday habit and showed up at Connor Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Preston Makedonia are yet to score a goal this year as they notched up their second 0-0 draw, and coach Ljube Jancev must demand far greater things when the team reaches full strength.

As it was though, the home team lined up without their Socceroo recruit Oscar Crino who was still being dragged through the bureaucratic nightmare of the VSF's transfer regulations.

They were also without injured Socceroo striker Warren Spink and defensive lynchpin, Steve Jackson, who was suspended.

Even the side that took the field was carrying two injured players, George Jolevski and Andrew Zinni.

Though both started well, as the game progressed their contributions faded and the Preston Makedonia attack began to look distinctly short of ideas.

But all credit to Adelaide Hellas. Fielding basically the same team that slogged through this winter's South Australian league championship and the NSL play-offs, they had only a fortnight's lay-off before steaming into the new summer season.

Nevertheless, every player is fighting for his position as coach Peter Jaksa stitches up the purchase of four new players, including one from the Polish First Division.

The visitors showed plenty of heart as Preston surged forward from midfield, Steve Smith, Andrew Zinni and George Slifkas all putting the Adelaide Hellas keeper David Miller to the test.

Jock Morlando flies high above Rod Brown in Wollongong City's 2-1 victory over Apia last Saturday. — Pic by HECTOR CARRASCO.

George Petrov was desperately unlucky when a close-range shot blasted out off the crossbar just before half-time.

The result though was decided by the defences. For Adelaide Hellas, Martin Doak made some crucial interceptions while Preston's Zoran Tasevski was as ever a tower of strength for the homeside.

While both teams griped at the end about penalties they should have been awarded, referee Dennis Voutsinas put in a consistent performance.

'In fact, Adelaide Hellas were lucky not to be reduced to 10 men when their tough midfielder Colin Miller continued to go in enthusiastically after earning a yellow card early in the game.

Perhaps their best scoring chance fell to Miller when he bustled down the right wing and zipped round defender Bill Piculovski, only to finish the move off with a shot straight into keeper Phil Traianedes' willing arms.

After the game Adelaide Hellas boss, Jaksa, said he had been hit by a Coke can thrown from the crowd.

This type of behaviour is clearly unacceptable.

If people want to do this sort of thing the clubs should set aside special areas where these people can thrown cans at each other and leave the rest of us to play and watch this beautiful game of soccer in peace.

Preston		Adelaide Hellas	
Traianedes	6	D. Miller	7
Runje	6	Watkins	6
Spasevski	6	Barnett	5
(Branov 63)		Heirn	6
Tasevski	8	Doak	7
Piculovski	6	C. Miller	7
Markovac	7	(Mousoulis 76)	
Petrov	6	Brazzale	7
Slifkas	6	Kidd	6
Smith	7	Blair	7
Jolevski	7	Vatsilas	6
Zinni	6	Konstandopoulos	6
(Momirovski 86)		(Mills 57)	

Scorers:

—

Yellow Cards: *C. Miller 30m, Brazzale 89m for West Adelaide.*

Referee: *D. Voutsinas 7.*

Crowd: 3842.

George Cross in upset win

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR the first 45 minutes the demeanour of the Sunshine George Cross supporters turned from expectation to disbelief.

After half time the wildly cheering crowd in the old Skinner Reserve grandstand overcame any feelings of insecurity as they prematurely celebrated what was eventually a famous 2-0 victory for their club.

It wasn't so much that Sunshine was beating the young lions of South Melbourne — Georgie has made a habit of knocking off Hellas in recent years — but on Sunday Sunshine, one of the so-called easy-beats of the league, was actually outplaying the monsters of Middle Park.

Their 2-0 win, which in the past might have been dismissed as an aberration, was no fluke.

The club took on and beat Souths on its own terms with a display which befits a team which is now top of the league.

From the start Sunshine was never going to lose this game.

It's fearsome defensive unit hit Hellas hard, fast and early to stamp its authority on the game and once it had established its supremacy over Trimboli and Co. the Hellas boys were always thinking twice.

But events further down the ground, where the Georgie midfielders and forwards matched and beat the visiting superstars, bought the biggest grin to Ernie Merrick's face.

Coach Merrick had promised the defence oriented Sunshine teams of the past were no more and with the likes of Ossie Latif, Craig and Paul Foster and Gary Hasler delivering the goods as they did on Sunday, he is as good as his word.

They worked overtime at the basics of closing down on the man and tackling crisply to win the hard ball, but it was what the likes of the Foster brothers and Latif were doing in possession which left the homes supporters in awe.

Latif, whose pace and energy earned him near man of the match status, struck the first goal after just 17 minutes as he nipped in to meet John Waddell's through pass and speared the ball home.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

SOCCER POOLS

THE POOLS

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS
WEEK 224 SAT 11 NOVEMBER, 1989

POOLS RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

Total Prize Pool $472,510.06

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 8, 22, 25, 26, 31, 34. Supplementary Number: 16

Division 1
The Prize Pool is $398,979.46. No winner - Jackpot week 225 (Est. $550,000 next week).

Division 2
The Prize Pool is $4,200.80
2 provisional winners of $2,100.40 ea

Division 3
The Prize Pool is $12,603.30
43 winners of $293.10 ea.

Division 4
The Prize Pool is $31,465.00
2,170 winners of $14.50 ea.

Division 5
The Prize Pool is $25,261.50
3,062 winners of $8.25 ea.

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	COVENTRY	SOUTHAMPTON	1	1-0
	CRYSTAL P.	LUTON	2	1-1
	DERBY	MAN. CITY	3	6-0
	MILLWALL	ARSENAL	4	1-2
	NORWICH	ASTON VILLA	5	2-0
	SHEFF. WED.	CHARLTON	6	3-0
	TOTTENHAM	WIMBLEDON	7	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BLACKBURN	IPSWICH	8	2-2 ★
	BOURNEM'TH	SHEFFIELD UTD.	9	0-1
	BRADFORD C.	HULL	10	2-3
	LEICESTER	LEEDS	11	4-3
	MIDDLESBRO	SWINDON	12	0-2
	OXFORD UTD.	OLDHAM	13	0-1
	PORTSMOUTH	PORT VALE	14	2-0
	STOKE	BRIGHTON	15	3-2
	SUNDERLAND	WOLVES	16	1-1 ★
	WATFORD	PLYMOUTH	17	1-2
	WEST BROM.	BARNSLEY	18	7-0
	WEST HAM	NEWCASTLE	19	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BIRMINGHAM	LEYTON O.	20	0-0
	BLACKPOOL	BRENTFORD	21	4-0
	BRISTOL C.	BOLTON	22	1-1 ★
	BURY	READING	23	4-0
	FULHAM	CARDIFF	24	2-5
	HUDDERSFIELD	NORTHAMPTON	25	2-2 ★
	NOTTS C.	WIGAN A.	26	1-1 ★
	ROTHERHAM	CHESTER	27	5-0
	SHREWSBURY	BRISTOL R.	28	2-3
	SWANSEA	PRESTON	29	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	ALDERSHOT	HARTLEPOOL	30	6-1
	CHESTERFIELD	STOCKPORT	31	1-1 ★
	LINCOLN	GILLINGHAM	32	1-3
	MAIDSTONE	YORK	33	1-0
	PETERBORO	HEREFORD	34	1-1 ★
	ROCHDALE	DONCASTER	35	1-3
	SCARBORO	EXETER	36	1-2
	TORQUAY	CARLISLE	37	1-2
	WREXHAM	GRIMSBY	38	0-1

★ Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

For Past Results and Historical Data on The Pools, w

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST
WEEK 225 SAT 18 NOVEMBER 1989

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	Q.P.R.	1	
	ASTON VILLA	COVENTRY	2	
	CHELSEA	SOUTHAMPTON	3	
	CRYSTAL P.	TOTTENHAM	4	
	DERBY	SHEFF. WED.	5	
	EVERTON	WIMBLEDON	6	
	LUTON	MAN. UTD.	7	
	MAN. CITY	NOTTINGHAM F.	8	
	NORWICH	CHARLTON	9	
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BARNSLEY	NEWCASTLE	10	
	BOURNEMOUTH	STOKE	11	
	LEEDS	WATFORD	12	
	LEICESTER	IPSWICH	13	
	OLDHAM	BRIGHTON	14	
	OXFORD UTD.	HULL	15	
	PORTSMOUTH	WEST BROM.	16	
	PORT VALE	SWINDON	17	
	SHEFF. UTD.	BRADFORD C.	18	
	SUNDERLAND	PLYMOUTH	19	
	WEST HAM	MIDDLESBRO	20	
	WOLVES	BLACKBURN	21	
F.A. CUP 1ST ROUND	BLACKPOOL	BOLTON	22	
	BRENTFORD	COLCHESTER	23	
	BURNLEY	STOCKPORT	24	
	CARLISLE	WREXHAM	25	
	DARLINGTON	NORTHWICH	26	
	DONCASTER	NOTTS. C.	27	
	HARTLEPOOL	HUDDERSFIELD	28	
	LEYTON O.	BIRMINGHAM	29	
	MAIDSTONE	YEOVIL	30	
	PRESTON	TRANMERE	31	
	ROTHERHAM	BURY	32	
	SHREWSBURY	CHESTERFIELD	33	
	SUTTON UTD.	TORQUAY	34	
	YORK	GRIMSBY	35	
H.F.S. LOANS L.	HORWICH	COLNE DYN.	36	
	MORECAMBE	CAERNARFON	37	
	STALYBRIDGE	GOOLE	38	
RESERVE MATCHES				
★	WITTON A.	SOUTHPORT	39	
SCOTTISH B & O PREMIER DIV.	CELTIC	DUNDEE U.	40	
	DUNDEE	RANGERS	41	
	DUNFERMLINE	ABERDEEN	42	
	HEARTS	MOTHERWELL	43	
	ST. MIRREN	HIBERNIAN	44	
SCOTTISH B & O DIVISION 1	ALBION R.	RAITH	45	
	ALLOA	MORTON	46	
	CLYDEBANK	AYR	47	
	FORFAR	CLYDE	48	
	HAMILTON	FALKIRK	49	
	PARTICK	MEADOWBANK	50	
	S. JOHNSTONE	AIRDRIE	51	
SCOT. B & O DIV. 2	DUMBARTON	COWDENBATH	52	
	EAST FIFE	STRANRAER	53	
	E. STIRLING	Q. OF SOUTH	54	
	KILMARNOCK	STIRLING A.	55	

★ HFS LOANS LEAGUE

Get your Pools in!

It takes only numbers

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 11/11/1989 — WEEK 224

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED								NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED							
1 23	2 26	3 34	4 13	5 27	6 42	7 32	8 40	1 10	2 17	3 5	4 33	5 22	6 1	7 7	8 —
9 42	10 50	11 44	12 43	13 42	14 43	15 46	16 40	9 12	10 2	11 8	12 6	13 1	14 2	15 1	16 —
17 40	18 40	19 33	20 48	21 42	22 47	23 46	24 43	17 1	18 2	19 16	20 4	21 3	22 —	23 10	24 11
25 45	26 51	27 47	28 58	29 48	30 65	31 45	32 49	25 —	26 —	27 3	28 4	29 9	30 1	31 —	32 7
33 48	34 58	35 51	36 59	37 47	38 48			33 10	34 —	35 4	36 2	37 5	38 1		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

ENGLISH Div 1: Coventry 1 Southampton 0, Crystal Palace 1 Luton 1, Derby 6 Manchester City 0, Everton 0 Chelsea 1, Millwall 1 Arsenal 2, Norwich 2 Aston Villa 0, QPR 3 Liverpool 2, Sheffield Wednesday 3 Charlton 0, Tottenham 0 Wimbledon 1, Manchester United v Nottingham Forest to be played Sunday.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	13	7	4	2	20	10	25
Arsenal	13	7	3	3	23	15	24
Liverpool	12	6	3	3	25	12	21
Norwich	13	5	6	2	21	16	21
Ast Villa	13	6	3	4	19	14	21
Everton	13	6	2	5	20	20	20
Coventry	13	6	2	5	11	15	20
Southampt	13	5	4	4	23	20	19
Tottenham	13	5	3	5	19	19	18
Luton	13	4	5	4	13	11	17
Notts Fst	12	4	4	4	16	13	16
Derby	13	4	3	6	15	12	15
Wimbledon	13	3	6	4	11	14	15
Millwall	13	4	3	6	20	25	15
Cryst Pal	13	4	3	6	14	27	15
Man Utd	11	4	2	5	19	19	14
QPR	13	3	5	5	14	16	14
Man City	13	4	2	7	17	24	14
Charlton	13	3	4	6	11	15	13
Sheff Wed	13	3	3	7	6	20	12

Div 2: Blackburn 2 Ipswich 2, Bradford 2 Hull 3, Bournemouth 0 Sheffield United 1, Middlesbrough 0 Swindon 2, Oxford 0 Oldham 1, Portsmouth 2 Port Vale 0, Stoke 3 Brighton 2, Sunderland 1 Wolverhampton 1, Watford 1 Plymouth 2, West Bromwich 7 Barnsley 0, West Ham 0 Newcastle 0, Leicester 4 Leeds 3.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	17	11	5	1	31	17	38
Leeds	17	10	5	2	30	18	35
Newcastle	17	9	5	3	33	19	32
Oldham	17	8	5	4	23	18	29
Sunderland	17	8	5	4	28	24	29
Swindon	16	8	4	4	30	18	28
West Ham	17	7	6	4	25	18	27
Plymouth	17	8	3	6	27	22	27
Ipswich	17	7	5	5	28	25	26
Blackburn	16	5	10	1	27	18	25
Wolves	17	6	6	5	25	21	24
Brighton	17	7	1	9	26	26	22
WBA	17	5	5	7	29	29	20
Oxford	17	5	4	8	24	28	19
Bournemth	16	5	4	7	23	27	19
Port Vale	17	3	8	6	17	21	17
Portsmouth	17	4	5	8	18	26	17
Watford	17	4	5	8	15	23	17
Bradford	17	3	7	7	17	21	16
Barnsley	17	4	4	9	19	38	16
Middlesboro	16	3	6	7	19	26	15
Leicester	17	3	6	8	19	28	15
Stoke	17	2	8	7	16	31	14
Hull	17	1	10	6	17	24	13

Div 3: Birmingham 0 Leyton Orient 0, Blackpool 4 Brentford 0, Bristol City 1 Bolton 1, Bury 4 Reading 0, Fulham 2 Cardiff 5, Huddersfield 2 Northampton 2, Notts County 1 Wigan 1, Rotherham 5 Chester 0, Shrewsbury 2 Bristol Rovers 3, Swansea 2 Preston 1, Crewe 2 Mansfield Tranmere 2 Walsall 1.

DIVISION THR

Brist Rovers	16	8	7
Bury	16	8	
Brist Cty	16		
Rotherham			
Tranmere			
Bolton			
Ne			
Wigan	16	3	6
Cardiff	16	3	6
Brentford	16	3	2

	7	15	23	15
	7	20	29	15
	11	17	11	30

Div 4: Aldershot 6 Hartlepool 1, Chesterfield 1 Stockport 1, Lincoln 1 Gillingham 3, Maidstone 1 York 0, Peterborough 1 Hereford 1, Rochdale 1 Doncaster 3, Scarborough 1 Exeter 2, Scunthorpe 3 Burnley 0, Torquay 1 Carlisle 2, Wrexham 0 Grimsby 1, Colchester 1 Cambridge 2, Halifax 1 Southend 2.

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southend	16	10	3	3	27	14	33
Exeter	16	10	1	5	30	20	31
Stockport	16	8	5	3	24	13	29
Carlisle	16	8	5	3	23	16	29
Peterboro	16	7	7	2	22	14	28
York	16	7	6	3	20	15	27
Scunthorpe	16	8	2	6	30	22	26
Lincoln	16	7	5	4	16	15	26
Cambridge	16	7	4	5	29	25	25
Gillingham	15	7	4	4	18	14	25
Chesterfld	16	7	4	5	23	22	25
Aldershot	16	6	6	4	26	21	24
Burnley	16	6	6	4	16	15	24
Hereford	16	5	6	5	22	23	21
Grimsby	16	5	5	6	20	18	20
Maidstone	16	6	2	8	20	22	20
Rochdale	16	6	2	8	15	19	20
Halifax	16	5	4	7	24	22	19
Torquay	15	4	3	8	16	27	15
Scarboro	16	4	2	10	19	28	14
Wrexham	16	3	4	9	17	24	13
Doncaster	16	3	3	10	18	22	12
Colchester	16	1	6	9	14	30	9
Hartlepool	16	2	3	11	15	43	9

SCOTTISH Prem Div: Hearts 6 Dundee 3, postponed: Aberdeen v Rangers, Celtic v St Mirren.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	13	6	3	4	26	18	15
Dunferml	13	5	5	3	21	15	15
Rangers	12	6	3	3	14	9	15
Aberdeen	12	6	3	3	13	9	15
Celtic	12	5	4	3	17	13	14
Motherwell	13	4	6	3	19	16	14
Dundee Utd	13	3	6	4	16	17	12
Hibernian	13	4	3	6	14	18	11
St Mirren	12	3	2	7	11	25	8
Dundee	13	1	5	7	17	28	7

Div 1: Airdrieonians 3 Raith 2, Albion 1 St Johnstone 3, Alloa 1 Clyde 1, Ayr 3 Falkirk 3, Clydebank 3 Forfar 2, Meadowbank 0 Morton 0, Partick 3 Hamilton 1.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Johnst	15	11	4	0	33	14	26
Partick	15	8	6	1	32	16	22
Airdrieon	15	10	2	3	30	15	22
Hamilton	15	5	6	4		24	16
Falkirk	15	5	5			20	15
Clyde	15	5				8	15
Alloa	15						14
Raith							14
Clydebank							3
Ayr							
M							

...saroudis (Tornadoes), Robbie Noggler (Swans), Boris Atanasovski (Buffalos).

...against ...onaro and 5-3

Wooldhouse ... Brown was dismissed for misconduct ... both of whom were sent off during the season.

Modest Puskas has done it all before

BY GREG BLAKE

HAVING tasted the adulation of the world audience for more years than he cares to remember, it is hardly surprising that Ferenc Puskas isn't about to get carried away by the swaggering hordes who follow the fortunes of South Melbourne Hellas with a passion.

FERENC PUSKAS — committed to attacking football.

As the now portly frame of the Hungarian footballing legend walked from Middle Park following South Melbourne's crushing first-up 4-0 victory over Sydney Croatia, the crowd stood to applaud his splendid debut.

But the standing ovation hardly even turned the head of the most illustrious name to coach in the NSL.

Puskas walked quietly back into the bowels of the famous Melbourne stadium to start planning for his team's next appointment with Sunshine George Cross.

For he knows as well as anyone that one swallow does not make a summer and that there is still much work to be done if Hellas is to swing back into title calculations.

A quick reminder of how fickle form can be, came last weekend when West Adelaide crashed to a 2-0 defeat at Sunshine.

"It is too early to comment," he said.

"I'm very happy with the support I've had from the players and the committee but there is much still to be done."

Before game one under Puskas the normally acidic Melbourne media found itself unusually reticent to find room for criticism of this giant of the game.

His appointment at Middle Park was greeted with near-reverence by the local media even though the nagging questions about the club's failure last year remained.

And although Puskas himself isn't ready to take a bow just yet, it seems his influence is taking effect.

A successful Dockerty Cup run followed by a resounding opening round victory gives him an enviable 100 percent record.

"My players are fit but there is still room for improvement in other areas such as technique," maintains Puskas.

"My aim is to win, and nothing else, but we cannot win every game and I hope the supporters understand that.

"I am not setting goals — I will be trying my best.

"All I want from supporters is to have patience and not to judge the team too early.

"I'll try to make the football interesting and entertaining but there will be times when things go against us.

"I want the supporters to understand that and to not swear at the players when they are doing their best."

There is no doubt that Hellas is playing football in the Puskas mould.

The free-wheeling 'total football' which stamped the Hungarian team of his era as one of the great sides of history will become the Hellas tradesmark this year.

"I want skill and intelligence throughout the entire team," is his bottom line to coaching.

"He has put confidence into the players and the club," says Socceroo Paul Wade of the man who rose to glory with Hungary and Real Madrid.

"As a club we were out in the wilderness for 12 months and we did nothing. He has come to the club, given us a ball and said to start playing football.

"He told us that we have the ability and now we must go out and show it. The boys only had six weeks off but with Puskas there they have been dead keen to get out and start playing again.

"We aren't getting carried away about what we did against a weakened Sydney Croatia but if we play like that every week nobody could beat us."

Against Croatia everyone in the Hellas team chased, ran and offered options up and down the ground.

It was as impressive a team performance as has been seen from a Hellas team for some time and it was rare to watch an NSL team committed to such all-out attack.

"I believe in attacking soccer," says Puskas.

"You never play defensiveiy, even if a team is two or three goals in front."

Puskas admits to knowing little about the NSL teams his club will face in 1989/90 but he has vowed to scour countless hours of video tape and rely on his coaching staff to help him in his match planning for the next six months.

So why should a man whose name has lifted the likes of Real Madrid, AEK and Panathanaikos to fame be involved in the relative obscurity of Australian soccer?

For the same reson he has been involved in Canada, Chile and Egypt.

"Because I love soccer," he answers simply.

Sean Keogh is vital to Sunshine's well-being

BY GREG BLAKE

EATING humble pie isn't something that comes easily to men with the fighting qualities of Sean Keogh.

Keogh, virtually a cast-off at Brunswick Juventus five years ago, has spent the last few years hell-bent on avoiding defeat.

His efforts as an ever-present in the Sunshine George Cross goal for the past three seasons have earned him a reputation as one of the top four or five custodians in the NSL.

Keogh is anything but a loser.

But one battle he did lose was the pre-season one he fought with George Cross when he tried to leave the club with one year of his contract left to run.

As he said at the time: "I would like to get the chance to try and win something."

But it speaks volumes for his efforts for the club that George Cross fought so desperately to retain his services.

It also shows the respect he has earned at that club by being welcomed back with open arms at the end of his hold-out.

But most of all it proved that Keogh is still determined to do his best under any circumstances as he walked back to George Cross head held high and then proceeded to produce one of his best performances as the team won its Round 1 fixture at Melita Eagles.

"I was a bit disappointed (to not get the transfer)," he says candidly. "And it was a bit difficult to get back at first.

"But after I spoke to Ernie (Merrick) it was clear that some of my problems with the club would be resolved.

"He asked me to return and I did."

At one stage, Keogh had told George Cross that he would be prepared to stay out of the game.

He was fully prepared to stand by his decision but Merrick saw the club's 1988 Player of the Year as a vital cog in the George Cross machine.

"I prefer to look on the incident as pre-season blues, but I remained quietly confident we would get him back," Merrick said on his return.

"He is a big boost to our chances of doing well in the NSL this season."

For a time Keogh, who cost George Cross just $5,000, looked set to join title-chasing Melbourne Croatia but there were few grounds for negotiation between the two clubs with Cross asking for $30,000 and Croatia unwilling to go higher than $16,000.

"In the end it just didn't look like anything was going to get sorted out," Keogh explained.

"George Cross was asking for more than Melbourne Croatia was willing to pay and there were no negotiations. I had made a transfer request but initially I was getting nowhere with it and in the end I had to make a stand for any action to be taken.

"After that, I was at least able to talk to the club and when I knew that the two clubs' failure to negotiate would continue, I had to decide whether to return or not."

Keogh is reserving his judgement on just how George Cross will perform in 1989/90.

Relegation loomed too close for comfort last season but for a man who declared he wanted a move so he "could win something" at least the signs are encouraging.

"In winning at Melita it was the first time in George Cross history that the club had tasted success in an opening round clash.

"I think we'll have more of an idea after this week's game (against South Melbourne Hellas)," was his prediction.

"The result isn't the important thing, but how we play against a side like South Melbourne will be a better indicator.

"It's too early to tell how we'll go this year but certainly the confidence is up."

There's little doubt that Keogh's name has become one of the most respected in NSL circles in recent years.

He has, quite literally, been a match saviour for that club consistently in the past three years.

But now the pressure is well and truly on with the club having declared his importance to any hopes of glory for George Cross.

Jeff Olver's ordeal

(Continued from Page 1)

He praises Heidelberg for its efforts to get him back after a short and disappointing spell at Melbourne Croatia.

"Heidelberg is a good club and they've been good to me," he says.

"I'd certainly like to stay and help them out."

But at 28 and with at least another four or five good years as a goalkeeper to come (do the names of Zoff, Yashin or Shilton ring a bell?) Olver knows his national team place is threatened by the relative obscurity of the Victorian State League.

Although he cannot move until December 1, he is yet to sign a contract with Heidelberg and he is keeping his options open.

"I hope that if an (NSL) offer comes along that the club would consider releasing me," he says.

"I get on well with the people at Heidelberg and I'm certain they'd consider releasing me even on loan if there was a chance of playing in the NSL.

"I believe I still have plenty to offer the national team and obviously my chances of staying with the national team will be greater if I'm in the NSL."

But Olver, if nothing else, is one of the most determined and hard-working young men around.

JEFF OLVER — waiting game.

And if the hard work means a year at State League level, he says he is prepared for it.

It might mean losing his Socceroo spot but, having worked overtime to win his place once before, he is quite happy to go through the grind all over again.

"Over the next 12 months there is very little for the national team to play for," Olver explained.

"I know Frank (Arok) has been very busy with his club and at this stage haven't heard from him, so perhaps he might be looking to blood some new players.

"But I firmly believe I have something to offer and if it means having to come back after losing my place I'll do my best to do just that.

"If that means spending six months in the State League I'll do it and if Heidelberg builds an NSL squad for the State League, as they have said they will do, I could be back in the NSL in mid-October of next year.

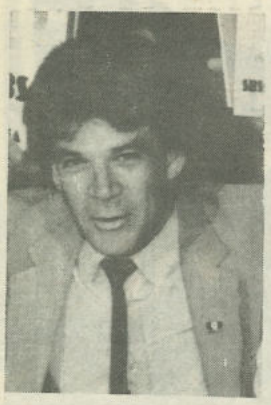
"It has happened before that players have missed out and then been able to come back.

"I cannot do anything about the situation anyway so it's just a matter of putting my head down and doing the hard work."

And Olver is no stranger to that.

Despite there being a full four months before the Victorian season commences again, Olver is out pounding the beat and training six nights a week.

It is that sort of determination that is sure to keep him at the top of Australia's goalkeeping tree.



JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

MEET THE INDOOROOS

Australia's squad for second Pacific Cup

THE Australian Futsal squad enters training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport later this month to prepare for the second Pacific Cup to be hosted by Mexico from November 25 till December 3.

The national teams of Mexico, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Cuba, Canada, USA and Puerto Rico will participate.

The first Pacific Cup was staged in Australia in 1987, Mexico beating Australia 6-2 in the overtime final after the scores were level 1-1 at full-time.

Nick Nicolopoulos' national team intends to go one better in Mexico City this year.

With justified reasoning the Australian side feels it has an excellent chance.

Local players have benefited enormously from playing "the best against the best" week in week out in the James Hardie NISL.

Australia did finish sixth in the Australian-hosted World Cup in 1988 and there have also been national team tours to Brazil, Japan and the USA at all age levels for several years.

There were no surprises in Nicolopoulos' team.

Outstanding, free-scoring Sydney White Eagles star Milan Blagojevic was unavailable due to outdoor commitments with NSL club Apia.

The squad is:

Robbie Stuart (Bankstown NIB Tornadoes): Captain.

Stuart has played in the James Hardie NISL since its inception five years ago. A member of the 1985 and 1988 World Cup teams, he was captain in 1988 and also captain for the 1987 Pacific Cup.

Bruce Thurlow (West Sydney Swans)

Australia's number one goalkeeper, toured Brazil with the national side in 1986, played three seasons in the James Hardie NISL, and in the 1987 Pacific Cup and 1988 World Cup.

STEVE KNIGHT

George Psaroudis (Bankstown NIB Tornadoes)

The back-up keeper to Thurlow, George has had three seasons in the National League.

Steven Knight (Bankstown NIB Tornadoes)

Another player with enormous NISL and international experience.

Five seasons in the James Hardie NISL, toured Brazil with the national team in 1986, played in the 1987 Pacific Cup and the 1985 and 1988 World Cups.

Mirko Radosavljevic (Sydney White Eagles)

One of the powers behind the high-flying White Eagles.

In his second James Hardie NISL season and gaining his first national honours with the Mexico trip.

Erkin Osman (West Sydney Swans)

Fifth season in the National League, captain of league leaders West Sydney Swans and NSW Player of the Year in the NISL last season, Pacific Cup (87) World Cup (85 and 88).

Robbie Noggler (West Sydney Swans)

Three years in NISL, Pacific Cup (87) and World Cup (88), Player of the Year 1987.

Radovan Filipovic (Sydney White Eagles).

Top scorer James Hardie NISL 1988 and currently top scorer in 1989. Exciting goalscorer who played in the 1988 World Cup when Australia finished sixth.

Glen Jeffrey (Bankstown NIB Tornadoes)

Four seasons in NISL, Pacific Cup (87) World Cup (88) and national teams tour of Brazil (86).

Boris Antanasovski (Melbourne Buffalos)

Three seasons in NISL and one of the main reasons Perth did so well in last year's James Hardie NISL. Pacific Cup (87) and World Cup (88).

Obtain ASW every Wednesday!

Indoor League will expand

Some drastic changes have been mooted for the James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League next season.

It is proposed to include Perth, Adelaide to the existing Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Illawarra and LaTrobe Valley set-ups.

Tasmania, through Hobart, is expected to be added in 1991, giving the league a truly national flavour.

★★★

FIFUSA (the world indoor soccer/futsal body) will hold a special meeting in Sao Paolo, Brazil from November 23-25, to endorse the FIFA/FIFUSA agreement for amalgamation which will take effect from January 1, 1990.

FIFUSA will then become the FUTSAL COMMISSION under FIFA and be served by equal representation from FIFUSA and FIFA.

Joe Brent, chairman of the Australian Futsal Federation and current vice-president, will be appointed to the world bodies' list of commissioners.

FIFA has agreed to a two-year moratorium on the laws of the game until the new commission has explored all possibilities.

★★★

While prolific scorers Kim Lembryk and Cindy Heydon grab the headlines, coach Nick Nicolopoulos assures me Buffalo Women's NISL leaders, the Bankstown Tornados, are more than a two-man (women) team.

Kim leads the national goalscoring charts with 36 goals, Cindy has 21.

★★★

Sharon Young, Airene Sein, Julie Dolan, Terese McCann, Shelley Fabian, Donna Cooperwaithe and Kathy McCully are the highly supportive members of the squad which is freely tipped to win the first-ever national title.

The women's finals will be staged along with the men's at the State Sports Centre, Homebush on December 8 and 9.

★★★

WORLD CUP FEVER

WHILE Italia '90 is still some seven months away, World Cup fever is starting to climb in Australia.

NSW State League Third Division club Marrickville has already made arrangements for big screen showing of the World Cup to members and junior players at the club's 200-capacity club rooms at Mackey Park, Marrickville.

Enquiries should be directed to John Mumford 558 2367.

A happy Maradona holds the 1986 World Cup aloft at Mexico's Azteca Stadium. He was married last week. Felicidades, Diego!

Diego Maradona in "Wedding of the Year"

DIEGO Maradona flew to Buenos Aires for his wedding (last Tuesday week, November 7), in what the local press has billed "the marriage of the decade".

A former slum dweller who rose to become one of the world's best-known athletes, Maradona flew in aboard a chartered jumbo jet carrying 280 guests, including teammates from Napoli.

Maradona, 29, was whisked away by a car at Buenos Aires' Ezeiza airport, eluding hundreds of reporters, photographers and admirers who had turned out to greet him.

Maradona was marrying his 28-year-old common-law wife Claudia Villafane on Tuesday night in two ceremonies — first at a civil registry and then at a Roman Catholic church.

Later he hosted a party for 1,200 guests including Argentine President Carlos Menem at Buenos Aires' main boxing stadium.

Among Maradona's guests on the plane were former Argentine internationals Osvaldo "Ossie" Ardiles and Alberto Tarantini, plus some members of the more recent crop of players such as Claudio Caniggia, Pedro Troglio and Maradona's brother Hugo, who boarded the flight during a stopover in Madrid.

The arrangements for the wedding have been compared to those of the parties thrown for heirs of Argentina's biggest industrial and farming fortunes.

Another plane-load of friends and family from Maradona's parents' home province in northwestern Argentina was due to arrive for the wedding.

Guests will occupy 140 rooms in two of Buenos Aires' most expensive hotels — with Maradona footing the bill.

A team of 60 men worked under the orders of an Argentine television set designer to wrap the Luna Park, a grey hulk near Buenos Aires' port, with 15,000 metres of grey, black and white cloth and spruce up the cavernous stadium with some 4,000 plants.

The newlyweds will not have much of a honeymoon as Maradona was expected back in Naples on the Thursday.

Practical joker

FORMER Socceroo star John Perin has a reputation as a practical joker, as I found out last week.

Ringing Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic to seek his views and news for this season, Zoran refused to talk to me, believing it was Johnny Perin calling.

Zoran took my phone number and range back — to make sure it wasn't Perin.

Apparently Perin, a grat mimic, can make anyone fall for his practical jokes.

★★★

CANBERRA's radio station 2SSSFM features a 10-minute soccer segment every Saturday morning at 8am with John Kinsella.

★★★

Apia and Sydney White Eagles (indoor) star Milan Blagojevic was a member of Cabramatta High School's Commonwealth Bank Soccer Cup-winning team in 1987.

★★★

NSW State League awards

BY ALEX VESIC

THE NSW Soccer Federation will sponsor its own brand of awards at the Apia Soccer Club at Leichhardt tonight, now that the Rothmans Foundation is off the scene.

Avala goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse.

A number of top players are chasing the honour of being Best and Fairest, as well as Players' Player of the Year.

The Best and Fairest Award will continue this year on the same basis as in the past.

Baz Giampaolo outsider for another medal.

NSW referees have cast their votes right throughout the season.

Players' Player of the Year, an innovation brought in by the NSL a few years ago, will also be on the agenda.

It will be most interesting to see the outcome of the votes separately awarded by the players and the whistlers.

The Best and Fairest contest will have one minor change from the Rothmans Medal format.

Players sent off during the course of the season will remain eligible.

The change will certainly augur well for top players Greg Brown, the League's No. 1 sharpshooter, and goalkeeper Greg Woodhouse of Avala, both of whom were sent off during the season.

Brown was dismissed for misconduct while Woodhouse received his marching orders for dissent.

Neither offence should have been regarded as serious enough to warrant their being prevented from contesting the award.

It may well be that each team in the League could have a name that will be prominent in the voting for the Best and Fairest award.

Aytek Genc, Gonzalez and Greg Brown of Melita are certain to be involved with Genc likely to be highly placed.

Tom Sermanni, Canberra Croatia's coach and one time winner of the Rothmans Award, seems destined to feature yet again.

GREG BROWN

His constructive play and above all sportsmanlike attitude is certain to have caught the eye of the men in black.

Lasek Kulwicki of Polonia, master of free kicks and one time star of Ruch Chorzow club in Poland, was amongst the best this year and certainly most responsible for the relative success of his club.

Sebastian Giampaolo, winner of the Rothmans Medal last year, will be out for yet another success.

Zlatko Markovski of Rockdale Ilinden, Marshall Soper of Canterbury Marrickville, Graeme Fletcher and Paul Kay of Wollongong Macedonia, Matthew Bourke of Uruguay Penrith, David Jones, Kevin Shell and David Bowen of Newcastle Austral are also amongst those who are certain to poll well.

Gonzalez — possible player of the year

Washington Gonzalez, one-time star of Nacional from Montevideo and the Uruguayan national team, was one of the best players in the NSW State League in 1989.

He would surely have to be amongst the leading lights for the Players' Player of the Year.

Paul Kay, an assistant coach and one of the most dynamic midfielders to succeed in Australian football from the South Coast, is another chance.

He is a fierce fighter and his never-say-die attitude is bound to bring him votes.

Zlatko Markovski of Rockdale Ilinden has been an inspiration for his side during 1989.

His power laden drives and a work rate that has no peer in the League will put him in line for the award.

Greg Woodhouse of Avala has certainly shown a new lease of life this season.

He was mainly responsible for a number of the points collected by his side, with some fabulous penalty saves as well as blocks that have caused a few forwards to choke when facing the big fellow — formerly the Australian national goalkeeper.

Marko Perinovic, of Canberra Croatia and now with Sydney Olympic, may not enjoy a deal of popularity with the referees, and may find his opponents just as critical despite the fact that he had two fabulous seasons in the State League.

Gary Cole did enough to impress his fellow players, as did Adam Sandy of Wollongong Macedonia.

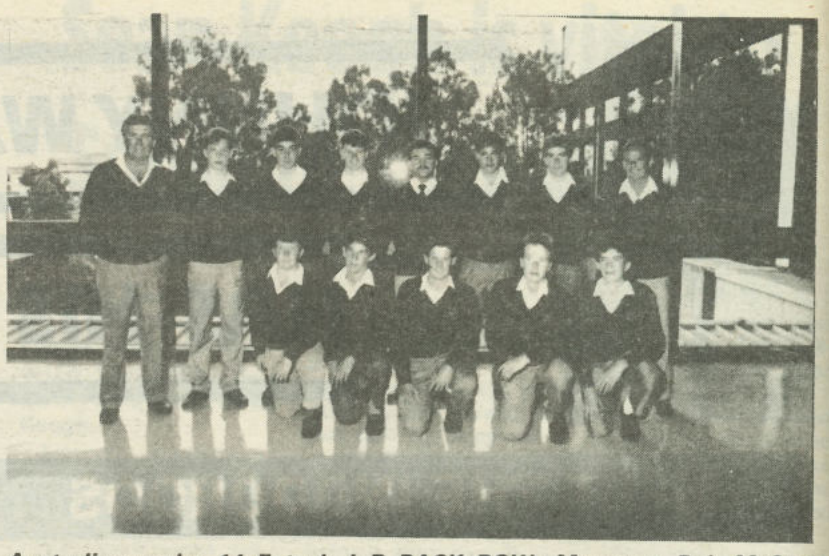
Tony Henderson, legs an inch slower then the first time I saw him play for Canberra against Marconi at Bossley Park, has retained his sportsmanlike attitude on the park.

His general enthusiasm for the game combined with an intense sense of responsibility and a rare but valuable sense of humour will also place the big fellow near the top of the barrell with the other leading contenders.

Alan Dean of Warringah Freshwater and Bernie Godzik of Canterbury have had exceptional seasons.

However they may find it difficult to collect the trophy with the likes of Woodhouse, Gonzalez, Kay, Markovski and Henderson vying for it.

— ALEX VESIC



Australian under 14 Futsal: L-R BACK ROW: Manager: Bob McCone (ACT), Nicholas Jamsek (NSW), Paul Currao (NSW), Mark Clugston (NSW), Coach Alois Jamsek, Brendan Bishop (ACT), Michael McCone (ACT), Trainer: Stan Greentree (ACT). FRONT ROW: Glenn McGavigan (NSW), Scott Moran (Qld), Brett Michie (ACT), Michael Greentree (ACT), Tim Bohm (ACT), Undefeated 22 goals for 4 against.

Indoor youths destroy New Zealand

THE victorious under 14 Australian Futsal (Indoor Soccer) squad completely destroyed the under 15 New Zealand team in a three-leg Test series.

Alois Jamsek, the national coach, saw his team take the Trans Tasman Cup for the second time running.

With the opening ceremony flying the New Zealand and Australia flags, emotion and pride from representing the country brought the determination to win.

The first game played on Saturday 21st October saw a nervous but positive team.

The next 40 minutes saw the Aussies put away five goals to nil. With the first game won the Aussies were on a high.

Sunday saw the under 14 squad win the second game with a 6-1 score line. The cup was in their hands, it was a matter of formality in the last tour match.

The game plan saw nothing less than a well oiled machine going to work.

It was the shortness of time which prevented the Australian team putting away any more goals.

With a 11-3 score line the Australians under 14 Futsal team had etched their presence on the world circuit and are now looking forward to take home a win from the South Americans, the leaders of Futsal in the world.

Coach Jamsek has a positive and determined plan and given the chance 1990 will see the Aussie squad come home victorious.

"I am convinced that we can break the Brazilians' back by sheer determination by the players and officials.

"The Aussie fighting machines have done us proud in the past and they will undoubtedly do the same in the future," he said.

Glenn McGavigan was nominated as the man of the series in his second year of representing Australia in the Trans Tasman Cup.

Qld titles

BY KEITH SHARROCK

OVER fifty teams contested this year's Queensland titles at Chandler last weekend.

The men's open competition was very strongly fought out by all established clubs in the state — Ipswich, Bayside, Toombul, Mackay, Rockhampton, Logan and Sunnybank.

After the qualifying rounds on Saturday all clubs except Mackay were still represented in the first quarter final.

The powerful Logan City club disposed of Rockhampton youth 6-1, Sunnybank ANZ took no pity on their fellow club members Sunnybank Amigos trouncing them 9-0, and Sunnybank comfortably overcame Rockhampton 3-6.

But the last quarter final stole the show. Valley Vikings were hot favourites to qualify for the finals and were up against Bayside Hans.

Vikings started well going to a two goal advantage, however the wheels came off as Darren Corbett posted five goals to claim a semi spot for Bayside.

The Vikings who boasted Dando, Roberto Lettieri, and Kieran Cooper in their squad, were a shock exit but they are regrouping to be a force in the coming State League.

On to the semi finals.

Sunnybank ANZ were overpowered by the very well organized Logan City 4-0 with John King 2, Bradley Melville and nifty Nigel McClure the scorers.

The second semi saw Sunnybank Blitz move into top gear to dispose of Bayside Hans.

Sunnybank, with a very strong line up of John and Russell Stewart, Enzo Dagostini, Colin Simpson and Johnny Kowtan, were well supported by the experienced Angus Meikle and Neil Patterson, and between the sticks Keith Sharrock did not leave much to chance.

Grand final time . . . Logan City moved into their third grand final, a great achievement for such a young team.

However the Sunnybank Blitz seemed to be the team on the improve and pre-match betting was on the Sunnybank camp.

A healthy crowd saw a great display of high quality indoor soccer with arguably the two best teams in Queensland competing for this prestigious title.

The Logan supporters were silenced with only four minutes on the clock when John Stewart showed extreme guile in robbing the Logan defence and then quickly despatching the ball into the back of the net.

Kowtan nearly ripped the nets off when he scored the second for Sunnybank just two minutes later, this time Russell Stewart caught Logan City's David Bearman in possession and set up a great move with Dagostine setting up for a great strike.

Halftime socre 2-0.

Sunnybank anticipated a brief charge and set up a solid defence. Logan had nothing to lose now but the Blitz ran in two goals on the break, both scored by the hard working Patterson after great work by Meikle and Simpson.

RESULTS

UNDER 10: Ipswich City 1 Sunnybank Blitz 0.

UNDER 12: Ipswich Spartans 1 Logan Cavaliers 0.

UNDER 14: Logan City Livewire 3 (Lederhose 2, Huth) Sunnybank 1 (Skordou).

UNDER 16: Bayside 5 (Moran 2, D. Whitfield 2, J Murphy) Logan City 1 (Hose).

LADIES OPEN: Bayside A 2 (Corbett, Patterson) Mackay River Plate 0.

MENS OPEN: Sunnybank Blitz 4 (Stewart, Kowtan, Patterson 2) Logan City Cavaliers 0.

JAMES HARDIE NATIONAL INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Compiled by ASW INDOOR EXPERT JOE DI MEGLIO

THE JAMES HARDIE NATIONAL INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

THE BUFFALO SPORTS WOMENS NATIONAL INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

JHNISL POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
White Eagles	18	14	1	3	193	95	44
West Sydney Swans	16	12	3	1	113	42	42
Melbourne Buffalos	16	10	3	3	114	73	36
B'town NIB Tornadoes	17	9	3	5	93	74	33
Valley Ford Falcons	16	6	1	9	132	129	20
Inter Monaro	14	5	1	8	81	124	17
AMIGA Commodores	18	4	2	12	78	119	16
Brisbane Baysiders	14	5	0	9	71	123	15
Sydney Strikers	15	3	2	10	71	117	13
Illawarra Health Fund	14	3	0	11	84	134	9

Results

Sydney Strikers 7 Inter Monaro 3, Brisbane Baysiders 7 White Eagles 9, Brisbane Baysiders 9 Illawarra Health Fund 6, Bankstown NIB Tornadoes 4 Inter Monaro 4, Sydney Strikers 5 AMIGA Commodores 3.

Top Scorers

Milan Blagojevic (White Eagles) 54, Radovan Filipovic (White Eagles) 52, John Metaxas (Melbourne Buffalos) 36, Miodrag Radovic (White Eagles) 34, Erkin Osman (West Sydney Swans) 33, Fortunato Carvalho (Melbourne Buffalos) 32, Eric Sostak (Valley Ford Falcons) 29, Anthony Cassar (Valley Ford Falcons) 26, Baz Giampaolo (Inter Monaro) 23, Rodney White (Valley Ford Falcons), Scott Gilligan (AMIGA Commodores), Joe Coelho (Illawarra Health Fund) 22, Cane Despotovski (Illawarra Health Fund) 20.

BSWNISL POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'town NIB Tornadoes	9	8	1	0	88	25	26
Sydney Strikers	9	7	0	2	53	24	21
Melbourne Buffalos	8	3	1	4	38	34	11
Brisbane Baysiders	6	2	0	4	22	50	6
West Sydney Swans	9	2	0	7	34	63	6
T'makers Prime Movers	9	2	0	7	29	58	6

Results

Brisbane Baysiders 3 Tubemakers Prime Movers 2.

Top Scorers

Kim Lembryk (NIB Tornadoes) 36, Cindy Heydon (NIB Tornadoes) 21, Nicole Komorowski (Sydney Strikers) 18, Julie Dolan (NIB Tornadoes), Julie Hebb (Sydney Strikers) 14, Teresa McCann (NIB Tornadoes) 13, Carol Church (Melbourne Buffalos) 11, Zafaria Memperis (Tubemakers) 10, Wendy Kinmont, Janine McPhee (Melbourne Buffalos), Debbie Hyde (Sydney Strikers), Rebecca Scot (Swans) 8.

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

JHNISL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

Sydney Strikers v Brisbane Baysiders
Coca Cola Hall Mt Druitt TBA
Melbourne Buffalos v Valley Ford Falcons
Ascot Vale Leisure Centre TBA
Illawarra Health Fund v Inter Monaro
Beaton Park Leisure Centre TBA

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19

Brisbane Baysiders v Melbourne Buffalos
Chandler Stadium 7pm
West Sydney Swans v Illawarra Health Fund
Fairfield Leisure Centre TBA

BSWNISL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

Sydney Strikers v Brisbane Baysiders
Coca Cola Hall Mt Druitt TBA

Exciting weekend matches previewed

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

WITH the four semi-final positions already decided, the remainder of the season looks promising for the lower placed sides as they try to transform early season lapses into end of season victories.

Next Saturday night the Sydney Strikers entertain the Brisbane Baysiders in what looks likely to be an explosive match at the Coca Cola Hall, Mount Druitt.

The Strikers have a point to prove after their first round encounter ended in a 8-5 loss to the Queenslanders.

If Frank Speranza can continue his goalscoring touch which has landed him seven goals in four matches, the Baysiders may need to resort to more defensive tactics.

In the Victorian derby to be played at the Ascot Vale Leisure Centre, the Valley Ford Falcons will be looking to turn the tide from the first round when they went down narrowly 4-2 in Moe.

This match promises a lot of end to end attacks.

Monaro will be anxious to finish the season on a high note after looking for too long as though they were going to fight for the final semi-final place.

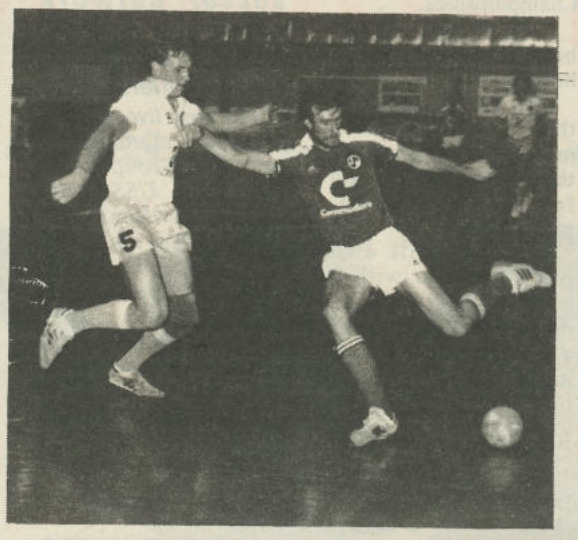
On Sunday, Brisbane will travel back home from Sydney to host the Melbourne Buffalos.

This match looks to be an easy one for the Buffalos, especially if their present form is any indication as they go into the match undefeated in their last four outings.

And in the final match for the weekend, the West Sydney Swans are at home against the Illawarra Health Fund.

The outcome should see the Swans overtake the White Eagles at the top of the table, as the Eagles have already finished their full 18 matches for the season.

In the only Buffalos Sports Womens League encounter, the battle for fourth place is certainly up for grabs with the Brisbane Baysiders, who defeated Tubemakers Prime Movers 3-2 last week, West Sydney Swans and the Tubemakers of Wollongong all on 6 points with one goal separating the teams on difference.



AMIGA Commodores topscorer Scott Gilligan tries a shot past West Sydney Swans' Steve Duval.

With some of the best goalscorers in the game in John Metaxas (36) and Fortunato Carvalho (32) for the Buffalos, Eric Sostak (29), Anthony Cassar (26) and their latest goalscoring star Rodney White with 22 goals for the Falcons, it should be a bumper tussle.

Meanwhile, going north to the Beaton Park Leisure Centre, Illawarra will be looking to move off the bottom of the table when they meet Inter Monaro.

But the Strikers look to have the match in the hand as their strength and determination is much the greater.

But don't underestimate the Queenslanders, who need the points to step closer to the semi-finals, and at this crucial stage of the season anything can happen, which is what makes indoor soccer such an interesting and great sport.

Australian Indooroo and Melbourne Buffalo Boris Atanasovski is forced away by Steve Milovanovic and Dragan Bosicevic.

White Eagles surge ahead

DESPITE the absence of their three top stars, Sydney White Eagles downed Brisbane 9-7 at the Chandler Sports Centre, Brisbane, to move to the lead in the 1989 James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League.

Missing from the Eagles line-up were leading scorer Milan Blagojevic, on NSL duty with Apia, and suspended duo Radovan Filipovic (second top scorer in the league) and Australian international Mirko Radasavljevic.

All three will be available for the finals series at the State Sports Centre, Homebush on Friday/Saturday December 8/9.

In other results, Inter Monaro blew their slim hopes of making the five when they lost 7-3 to Sydney Strikers on Saturday and drew 4-4 with Bankstown Tornados in a spiteful match at the Fairfield Leisure Centre on Sunday.

Inter Monaro's failure to grab maximum points from their two matches over the weekend means the final four will be Sydney Eagles, West Sydney Swans, Melbourne Buffalos and Bankstown Tornados.

The only team to benefit from the weekend's proceedings, apart from White Eagles, were the Sydney Strikers, who had two wins — 7-3 against Inter Monaro and 5-3 over AMIGA Commodores.

There was only one match in the women's league — Brisbane downing Illawarra 3-2.

There is only one place up for grabs in the women's final four.

Bankstown Tornados, Sydney Strikers and Melbourne Buffalos will be joined by either Illawarra, Brisbane or West Sydney Swans.

The national men's team enters training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra next Sunday in preparation for their forthcoming trip to Mexico City to participate in the second Pacific Cup featuring the national teams of Canada, USA, Japan, New Zealand, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Australia.

The team is Robbie Stuart (Tornadoes) captain, Steve Knight (Tornadoes), Radovan Filipovic (Eagles), Mirko Radasavljevic (Eagles), Erkin Osman (Swans), Glen Jeffrey (Tornadoes), Bruce Thurlow (Swans), George Psaroudis (Tornadoes), Robbie Noggler (Swans), Boris Atanasovski (Buffalos).

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Klaus at Apia . . . Paul with Marconi

Okons aspire to success

FRANK SCICLUNA talks to the two budding stars

THE opening round of the NSL summer season turned out to be an unforgettable day for Sydney's football-crazy Okon family, whose life has been totally devoted to soccer.

That was the day in which Apia's new 20 year old midfield signing from Marconi, Klaus Okon, made his National League debut against Adelaide Hellas.

And if that wasn't enough, his 17 year old brother Paul also made his first full NSL appearance for Marconi in the grand final replay against Sydney Olympic in the second part of the double header.

Many years of hard work and dedication had finally paid off for the two brothers and their father Klaus Snr — who is also the successful Marconi National Youth League coach.

But as he sat quietly in the grandstand watching his sons making their mark in their respective team's victories, one could not help but notice a hint of disappointment that his boys were not playing together in the green shirt of Marconi.

"I guess that it was never meant to be," he reflected.

Marconi had been like a second home for the Okons for as long as they can remember.

Young Klaus even went as far as to seriously consider giving the game away completely rather than leave Bossley Park.

"I could not imagine myself playing for anyone else," he admitted.

"I grew up with all my friends there and found it difficult to turn my back on them, but in the end I had very little alternative.

"When I carefully weighed up the situation and remembered all the sacrifices that had to be made since childhood, I decided that I owed myself one more crack at making it in the NSL."

Klaus had waited for three patient years to be given an opportunity to show what he could do in Marconi's senior side, but apart from two minutes as substitute in Wollongong's 6-0 thrashing last season it never came.

"I really felt that I was as good as some players who were regulars, all I wanted was the chance to prove it but it was never given to me.

"In the end I could no longer see any light at the end of the tunnel and I knew that I either had to leave or quit the game altogether.

"Believe me, I came very close to throwing it all in."

Example

A big influence on Okon's decision to persevere with his career came from Marconi's goalscoring ace Zlatko Nastevski, who convinced the youngster not to give up so long as he really believed in his own ability.

"I often discussed my predicament with Zlatko during training," Okon said.

KLAUS OKON

"He explained that he too was faced with a similar dilemma when he was at Vardar in Yugoslavia and also came close to quitting.

"Instead, he moved on to another club to start all over again and look at him now."

That sort of advice coming from someone with the stature of Nastevski brought Okon to his senses, it rekindled his determination to succeed.

"Going to APIA was at first a little strange, but even after such a short time I already know that it's the best move I could have made.

"Youngsters rarely get a chance at Marconi — that's why I'm so pleased for Paul, but Apia is totally different.

"Manfred Schaefer has already earnt my respect.

"He's far and away the best coach I've ever played for. He works closely with his players but at the same time commands discipline and keeps a certain distance," Okon observed.

"I can honestly say that I've never felt sharper or fitter in my life."

Obviously there's still a long way to go for the youngster before he firmly establishes himself at Lambert Park, but at least that light which was getting so dim at Marconi is suddenly shining brightly once again.

Now that he's finally made the break, Okon is hell-bent on doing everything he can to help revive Apia's fortunes. "My disappointments at Marconi are completely behind me now," he says with a new found enthusiasm.

"I would love nothing better than to be in the side when we face them.

"Hopefully, Paul can also retain his spot as it will be the first time that we have played against each other."

In startling contrast to his brother's long battle to make the breakthrough from youth team football, Paul has had an almost meteoric rise into the Marconi senior team.

He was one of half a dozen youth team players included in the recent touring party to Czechoslovakia.

Instead of spending most of his time watching his team mates from the grandstand however, he found himself in the starting line-up for all five matches.

"I still find it hard to believe," he said.

"A few injuries at the start of the tour forced coach Berti Mariani to give me a midfield spot and then, when Robbie Wheatley went down with a virus for the last game, I took over the sweeper's role which I consider to be my best position."

Okon's performances against seasoned European professionals proved to be a revelation.

Whether in midfield or as a sweeper, the youngster turned on a display of composure, maturity and elegance which completely belied his tender years.

When Marconi travelled to Adelaide for the Charity Cup game, Mariani had no hesitation in retaining Okon in his starting line-up and he held his position for the opening match of the new season against Sydney Olympic.

That performance earned rave reviews for the youngster, but he knows full well that there's a long struggle ahead before he can consider himself a regular.

"With so much talent at Marconi I know that I have to bide my time," he admits.

"But I'd like to think that Berti will give me my share of opportunities. I know that I won't let him or the team down."

Apart from his ambition to cement a place in Marconi's NSL side, Okon has set himself a target of playing for Australia in the 1991 World Youth Championships.

"That has always been my major goal," he says.

"If I can achieve that, I will then turn my attention towards the Australian team for the 1992 Olympics."

Marconi will also present Okon with a golden opportunity to develop his technique and further improve his fitness when he takes up a full time position after Christmas.

"Im really looking forward to that. It's the closest to going full time in Europe without having to leave home."

The next 12 months are certainly going to provide plenty of excitement and drama for two brothers, who find themselves on threshold of careers to which they have devoted most of their lives.

Their father meanwhile, can get on with his job of preparing his Marconi youngsters to follow the same road which took Klaus and Paul Okon into the world of National League football.

World Cup Marathon

Soviet Union striker Oleg Protasov (centre) — sure to be a thorn in the side of the Turkish attack.

SBS' five-hour live World Cup extravaganza

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SBS-TV will bring soccer lovers five hours of World Cup football from early tomorrow morning (3.45am EDST), Thursday November 16, when the super soccer network screens a double-header of World Cup qualifiers.

The first live telecast tomorrow morning will be from Group 3 between the USSR and Turkey (3.45am) — a clash vital to both countries as the winner will make the finals in Italy.

The second match will be beamed in from Hampden Park (6.45am) between Scotland and Norway where the Scots only need a point to qualify for the finals.

During the morning, no less than 12 World Cup qualifiers will be played, nine of which have a direct bearing on qualifying for the finals.

SBS-TV will bring viewers progress scores and updates from all these matches.

In between the two live telecasts, SBS will show highlights of some of the best qualifiers to date, including Yugoslavia's action-packed 3-2 win over France in Belgrade last year.

SBS-TV's "Mr Soccer", Les Murray told us: "SBS-TV has always sought to provide the best service to soccer fans. Tomorrow morning we will keep viewers well-informed with progress scores on top of our two exciting live telecasts from Simferopol and Glasgow at 3.45am and 6.45am respectively."

The Turks have been promised an unbelievable $86,000 per man if they win and qualify for Italy.

The last time Turkey made the World Cup finals was in Switzerland back in 1954.

Turkey, however, face a very difficult task as three of their key players will miss the game, having collected yellow cards in recent outings.

The Soviet Union, with practically its strongest line-up, will be hard to toss.

But the greatest pressure falls on the Scots who must shrug off mediocre recent form to secure one point from a Norwegian side they were very lucky to beat 2-1 in the first match at Oslo last year.

Yugoslavia qualified a long time ago from Group 5 and France will join them, provided they beat Cyprus at home on Saturday, should Norway spring an upset win over the Scots.

Scotland has a zero goal-difference whereas France, two points in arrears, have a goal-difference of plus one.

Scottish manager Andy Roxburgh has come in for scathing criticism from the local press for the team's poor form of late.

They have attacked him for selecting so many players who are allegedly out of form, starting with Manchester United's goalkeeper, the usually reliable Jimmy Leighton.

Right striker, Rangers' Ally McCoist has been slagged recently by the media as has Celtic's tough midfielder Roy Aitken.

Roxburgh's dilemma is what midfield trio he will settle on.

Pencilled in are Paul McStay, Aitken, Jim Bett or the recently recalled Davie Cooper.

Another option on the left side of Scotland's midfield is to slot in Chelsea's Gordon Durie.

Scotland's three-man attack will almost certainly include Ally McCoist, Pat Nevin and Mo Johnston.

Norway is expected to rely heavily on their classy sweeper Rune Bratseth, who is also their skipper and plays in Germany for Werder Bremen.

Another Norwegian star is the technically polished goalkeeper, Erik Thorvstedt, who currently wears the gloves at White Hart Lane for Tottenham.

Live 5-hour World Cup special on SBS-TV

LIVE TELECASTS ON THURSDAY NOV. 16

EUROPEAN GROUP 3 QUALIFIER

LIVE FROM SIMFEROPOL

- **12.45am Perth**
- **3.15am Adelaide**
- **3.45 all other SBS transmission areas**

USSR vs TURKEY

followed by

EUROPEAN GROUP 5 QUALIFIER

LIVE FROM GLASGOW

- **3.45am Perth**
- **6.15am Adelaide**
- **6.45am all other SBS transmission areas**

SCOTLAND vs NORWAY

Exclusively on SBS — Presented by MR Soccer Les Murray.

SBS TELEVISION

Progressive update throughout the show of scores and results of all other World Cup qualifiers played.
In between the two live telecasts, watch highlights of some of the best past qualifiers and a continuous update from other matches.

SBS-TV THE SUPER SOCCER CHANNEL

Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

WATCH out for another big name expert to join John Kosmina on ABC-TV's The Big Match.

Producer Jim Freeman says that the announcement will come very soon.

★★★

ONE time Australian goalkeeper Billy Henderson has now retired from work, and is a keen golfer at Sydney's Cumberland Golf Club.

He and wife Margaret have three married daughters, so there is plenty of interest in the grandchildren.

Billy was amongst other things in the first Australian Olympic Games soccer team, which played in the 1956 finals in Melbourne.

His brother Andy, a former NSW representative wing half, has recently completed a campervan trip around Australia with wife Pat.

Andy has given many years of yeoman service with the NSW Soccer Federation disciplinary committee.

★★★

NSW State League Div 2 club Manly Warringah has gained a lucrative sponsorship from Coca Cola.

In addition the Manly Warringah licensed club, handily situated right at the Cromer Park headquarters, is proving much more popular than in the past.

It has been going great guns under the new manager, David Rawlings.

Regular band entertainment is proving to be one of the winners.

★★★

WHEN Wollongong City crowds appear low compared with some of the middle rung of clubs, all is not what it seems to be.

Their average crowds have not been huge, but then again they have a policy of releasing real figures.

There are no fairy stories.

★★★

WOLLONGONG Wolves have a great worker in Jack Zanier, who has been a senior official with the club since its inception.

Whether it is a high profile job or arranging for buses for away matches, Jack is the fellow who comes to the aid of the Red and Whites.

★★★

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANNUAL NOW AT LEADING NEWSAGENTS

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★★★

IVO PRSKALO, the former stalwart Marconi central defender, went back to Yugoslavia as soon as his first class Australian career ended.

The same Ivo is now taking a prominent role in the club as assistant to coach Berti Mariani.

This week Glavovic Senad, a striker from Yugloslav club Velez Mostar, arrives to join the Fairfield outfit on Prskalo's recommendation.

★★★

FRANK AROK and his St George training staff have completed their review of players who wished to join their apprenticeship scheme, and expect to have 10 players up to 16 years of age participating in the squad.

Those who come through the ranks are to be offered contracts with the club.

★★★

PRESTON MAKEDONIA are still chasing at least one midfielder and one striker to bolster its squad for the testing 1989/90 campaign.

Preston is persistent in its bid to sign Socceroo Oscar Crino from JUST, but negotiations have stalemated over the $35,000 asking prize.

But one player who might return to the fold is former Rothmans Gold Medal winner Martin Woodall from Northcote City.

Woodall, who played for Preston three years ago, has been approached even though he has been training with and has been offered terms by South Melbourne.

Also being chased by Preston are the Morwell Falcons striking duo of Billy Wright and Ron Manley.

★★★

SOUTH MELBOURNE's brilliant first day performance against Sydney Croatia indicated that there was hardly a weakness in the side as it mounts a challenge for the NSL title.

Which is bad news for the club's two newest signings, Mehmet Durakovic and Joe Palatsides.

The former Brunswick Juventus pair cost the club a combined $40,000 but have been unable to play because of the rule preventing VSF transfers before December 1. By the time they are able to play they could find it difficult to secure a berth in the team.

★★★

THE Croatia Deakin licensed club annual meeting was told that it had recorded a 300% jump in profits for last year.

A great deal of this has been attributed to having the soccer club prominently placed in the NSW State League competition.

★★★

THE loss to Blacktown City represented the third year running in which Marconi suffered a defeat in the second week of the NSL.

But coach Berti Mariani isn't fussed by a defeat, and there is no doubt that this highly rated unit is one of the teams to beat in the summer season.

Its formidable strike power will be further enhanced by the arrival of Yugoslav striker Glavovic Senad from Velez Mostar.

Ivo Prskalo gave Senad high wraps.

★★★

Adelaide Hellas looks sure to sign Salisbury striker Tony Gasparetto.

The clubs were to negotiate a loan deal but Hellas now looks likely to buy the State team man outright.

The club, though, may have to conduct protracted negotiations to sign Campbelltown goalkeeper Robbie Parks.

Campbelltown have agreed to the move but Parks' former club Apia is disputing his right to join QNSL rival Hellas.

Apia has served notice that Parks was contracted to it until June.

★★★

ADELAIDE City is to get tough with ace midfielder Charley Villani.

He will face a twice a day training regimen to regain his spot in the City squad.

"His injury is not the problem now, it's his weight," said coach Zoran Matic. "I know some people spend money to lose weight but we are going to force Villani to do some hard work.

"I'll get someone to work with him and he'll do training sessions at 10am and 6pm each day to get fit.

"He is a sportsman, he should be able to do it. Villani is an important player to our squad. We want him in it."

A happy gathering snapped at the recent Sports Hall of Fame dinner. From left: Sports broadcaster and scribe David Lord, Charlie Perkins, Joe Brent, Joe Marston and Johnny Warren. Soccerite Perkins has held top jobs in both outdoor and indoor soccer, Brent is Australian Futsal president. Marston and Warren are both former Australian soccer captains.

ABC Television got it right when they signed former Socceroo captain John Kosmina for expert comments on the NSL Big Match program, which hits the screens across Australia at 5pm EST on Sunday nights.

Kosmina (pictured) quickly comes to mind as one of the clearest brains around the soccer game for many a long day.

Apart from his move into the media, Kossie wouldn't mind turning his hand to coaching, if the right opportunity came his way in NSW State League ranks.

Any ambitious club would do well to give him immediate consideration.

The Media representatives at the Sydney Ethnic Soccer World Cup were well looked after by the competition's Public Relations Officer, beautiful Pilar Orellana.

Pilar, with her assistance, knowledge of the game and attentiveness make the job of all journalists, photographers and sponsors a great pleasure.

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Amateurs' Promotion ideas

The purpose of the NSW Amateurs' Promotions and Development Fund is to be able to have available additional resources to be used to promote and develop soccer in areas that are not reached or not adequately reached at present.

Other sports are already doing this by levying between $15 and $26 per player and soccer is beginning to lose ground to them.

Specific use of the fund would initially be used to employ a Soccer Development Officer on a full-time basis who would undertake needs analysis surveys from time to time within Association areas, embracing schools, as a basis for organisation of on-going satisfaction of those needs.

It is intended that the NSW Amateur Federation will have several high-profile players "on contract" to be used for promotional and development purposes in schools, public arenas etc. to be paid as required.

The proposed fund would be kept as a separate account with all related income and expenditure shown.

Progress would be monitored through fortnightly reporting at executive committee meetings, with all expenditure approved by that committee.

The total programme would be subject to report to each full board meeting, and to annual formal review by the full board, with the need to continue the fund being part of that review.

The outcome will be the economical use of the fund to extend the reach to as many areas as possible throughout NSW; to promote the code with high profile participants, and assistance where found to be needed; to retain and improve our profile; to increase the playing of soccer in schools and clubs; help develop improved coaching in schools; stop the drain to other sports; force soccer into non-soccer media; and to generally seek avenues of promotion at every opportunity.

The needs analysis survey is intended to uncover these and other areas of need which can then be attacked within the scope of the programme.

Crackdown!

THE NSW Soccer Federation has had some joy over its move to limit on field player misbehaviour.

In a comparison of 1988 against last season, there was a reduction of 14.5% in the number of cautions issued.

Send-offs improved much more markedly, dropping by a mammoth 36.7.

Finance still ASF bugbear

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Australia's under 16 Joeys: they qualified for the 1989 World Cup in Scotland, but money is in short supply.

THE Australian Soccer Federation's attempt to recover its financial position and give proper support to the five national teams is in a watershed position.

The ASF is seeking a capitation fee of $1 per junior association player and referee and $5 per senior player, referee and coach.

No-one can tell whether it will be accepted across the states, and if it does not, what will be the position of some of the Australian squads.

Some chopping would be inevitable.

Stated simply, the present ASF management began with a deficit of $1 million.

It has annual funding from corporate and government sources of $450,000 and needs an extra $350,000 to handle its national team tasks.

The Socceroos, Olympic team, U20 and U16 Youth teams and the Indoor side need support.

If soccer can raise a reasonable figure, then it might get some type of further help from Commonwealth Government sources.

As far as can be ascertained at the moment, Queensland is likely to support the scheme and Victoria is in a state of flux.

Western Australia will put the proposal to its annual meeting in December, and responses are not available from South Australia and Tasmania.

NSW is in the throes. It will be interesting to see what happens if the NSW Soccer Federation approves the proposal and its huge Amateur Federation does not.

That question would however become hypothetical if the scheme was not approved across the states.

One key meeting is the NSW Amateur annual meeting on November 25.

The success of the ASF scheme begins and ends in NSW, because that is where the overwhelming bulk of the players are located.

In fact, if the scheme goes through, it will be of great interest to observe the vastly differing number of players between NSW and Queensland and some of the other states that have never got their junior and school acts together.

To find the reason for the lack of cohesion in soccer is quite easy — and this is the fundamental root of problems of which funding is but one.

Australian Soccer Weekly believes that at last the national association is moving towards a proper management survey of the code — but the development fee question will have to be resolved before that becomes available.

There are various arguments for and against the operation of the scheme, but the angle of suporting the national teams is sound.

However the position in NSW, which overwhelmingly is the state that has the players and will have to find the bulk of the money, is quite interesting.

Soccer has gained its position in junior ranks by self-funding.

When rugby league came along years ago and sought to banish youngsters playing Saturday organised sport, the then NSW president Tom Grimson turned them down.

Rugby League has made other unsuccessful attempts to take over.

At this stage that code is believed to be putting five development officers in the field, with the idea of discovering talent and getting youngsters to watch their game, and possibly handling coaching courses for teachers.

Soccer is way ahead on player numbers and has to remain so.

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation obtains a 50c for youngsters and $1 for senior players levy at present, to fund its state teams and trophies etc.

It has calculated that it must secure a further $1 per player to put its own development officers in the field to visit schools and encourage young players.

This idea clashes to some degree, of course, with the ASF national team scheme.

It is said that basketball charges $15 to $26 as a development levy for its players, and that even $2 for the ASF and Amateur development levies for a soccer player means just two cans of drink per season foregone.

Yet there are other costs for clubs and associations on junior soccer players, and no senior soccer clubs have monies available to keep down the cost of the junior sport.

So there is the point of how far the levying business will go.

The NSW Amateurs would raise at least $107,000 from their own further levy.

They are well ahead of other arms of marketing soccer, and due to the attention of general manager Cec Bucello and his staff their efforts will be most productive this year.

But that is not to say that there will be any big surplus which would wipe the need for their development impost.

In all this there is of course the absence of the senior NSL clubs. Soccer has no system which will widely merchandise to the general public, and won't have to the necessary degree unless the game gets its act together as per a national management plan.

Even then the amateur side of the game will have to have input to protect its own neck of the woods.

It is perhaps possible to see money coming into soccer from a Soccer TAB plan, but it doesn't exist at the moment and soccer is on the edge of government support.

Also there seem to be difficulties in securing NSW state government support for development officers.

The NSW Federation has assistance from this source for its schools and referees development officer, Gary Power, but the Federation and the Amateurs would have to come to an arrangement before they could expect Sports and Recreation funding for more men in the field.

It is quite possible that the NSW Soccer Federation would take a strong position against the Amateurs if the latter moves into the schools field, which it regards as its own province.

So there are the two competing levy plans in key state NSW — the ASF and the NSW Amateurs — or maybe they could be complementary.

The first thrashing out will be on November 25, when the NSW Amateurs seem likely to approve their own plan.

After that would crop up the clash of interests with the senior body, the NSW Federation.

The NSW Amateurs' very existence is the basis of the playing side of soccer in NSW, and so long as they are in charge of that area there is far less chance of mistakes taking place than under any other system.

Then again, the Amateurs represent the junior and not the senior part of the code.

But, as to the ASF proposal, more water will have to flow under the bridge before the full scene emerges.

If for example the ASF had to remove the national under 16 team from its agenda due to lack of funds then the ambitious Australian juniors would be the ones to suffer.

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANNUAL NOW AT LEADING NEWSAGENTS

Perinovic transfer

BY GRAHAM COOKE

STRIKER Marko Perinovic made a desperate bid to come to terms with Canberra Croatia before joining NSL club Sydney Olympic.

Speaking in Canberra, Perinovic claimed that he was an unhappy man, saying that the Canberra club had forced him into leaving — a charge later strenuously denied by club secretary Bert Kert.

Perinovic told me he would much prefer to stay with Canberra.

"I have really enjoyed the last season; the supporters have been fantastic and besides, my job is here and my wife and I are settled," he said.

"I went to Croatia and stated my terms for 1990, but instead of negotiating they simply said what I was asking for was unacceptable.

"The figure I wanted was below what Olympic offered — and I was still prepared to hear what they had to say.

"Olympic has agreed that I can live in Canberra and travel down to Friday training sessions and the weekend game, but it is still a lot of time away from home.

"Sydney's season has begun and they wanted me more or less right away."

"I honestly believe I have not been treated well by the club, and I can see other players wanting to leave if this is the way things are going."

Kret was quick to claim that Perinovic's version of the negotiations was incorrect.

"It is true that the kind of money he was talking about was well above our limit, but he gave us the impression that there would be no flexibility on his part," he said.

"We believe that under these circumstances there was no alternative other than to put him on the transfer list.

"No firm offers were made to any other Canberra Croatia players this week. We simply outlined our proposed pay structure for the season, which involves lower signing-on fees but increased bonuses.

"All the players interviewed were told we would get back to them shortly. Marko was the only one who seemed to have a real problem with this."

Perinovic, 25, came to the Canberra club from Inter Monaro 12 months ago as part of a three-player deal. He had a reputation as a devastating goal-scorer, having topped the NSW State League list in 1988, but last season struggled under intense marking, finding the net just eight times.

However, the attention lavished on him allowed freer rein to Gary Cole and Tony Lemezina, who both scored 10.

It is understood that Sydney Olympic had to russle up $9,000 for Perinovic's services.

For Olympic coach Eddie Thomson there was no option but to draft Perinovic into the firing line immediately.

"He is very fit, and is needed to partner Kevin Hagan straight away," said Thomson.

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ALAN CLARK REVIEWS
The Soccer Scene in . . .
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Foundation S.A.

PROMOTING A STATE OF HEALTH

PORT Adelaide United chairman Len Alagich quashed speculation his club could fold.

"These stories are completely without foundation," he said. "We have 85 years of tradition here and we are not about to let that go. Financially, we are okay now, though we still seek a major sponsor. We have several minor sponsors still backing the club."

★★★

Kevin Mitchell was voted Port Pirie Virtus' Player of the Year.

He pipped Brian Boyd for the award.

The two could play with Central District Apac next season. That's the side Boyd coaches.

★★★

YOUNG SA striker Sonia Gegenhuber looks a player with a big future.

The former athletics star has been drafted into the Australian national women's squad after top performances for SA in the national titles.

★★★

ELIZABETH City has appointed Barry Cook as its new coach.

Cook takes over from Ian Sim at the ambitious Second Division club.

★★★

ADELAIDE City will contest the Ampol Cup night series.

City, at one stage, seemed likely to pull out of the competition because of a lack of player strength.

But after discussions at the SA Soccer Federation, it was intimated City would takes its place.

Lion now misses out on the competition. It finished seventh in the league but eight-placed Croatia made the competition as it is the Cup holder.

★★★

BIRKALLA Eagles players will have a meet-the-coach session to discuss their playing future.

Treasurer George Albrechtsen said coach Neil McGachey had met club officials last weekend to outline strategies for the upcoming season.

McGachey now will meet players individually to discuss their plans.

Pre-season training is likely to start in mid-December.

The Eagles, too, are looking to put on a much more professional approach to their whole club set-up with several key new appointments.

★★★

Relegated Campbelltown has spoken with 'two or three' applicants for the coaching role at Newton.

"A decision is up in the air just now," said chairman Arthur Di Fede. "We shall sit down and discuss the matter fully so we get the right man for the job."

Such names as Bobby Tuffs, caretaker coach Elio Marusic and Jimmy Campbell have been mentioned as possibilities for the challenging role.

Meanwhile, midfielder Charlie Lamont and striker Steve McNally have ended their year's loan period with Birkalla Eagles.

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West Adelaide on the attack against Morwell Falcons in the 1989 promotion play-offs — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

Campbell to coach

FORMER champion SA soccer referee Donald Campbell is the new coach of Foundation SA State League club Croatia.

He was appointed last week in a move the club sees as a first step towards gaining a place among Australia's elite in the Quit National Soccer League.

"We have achieved one of Australia's biggest sporting coups with Campbell's appointment," said Croatia president Tony Kilic.

"His appointment is the catalyst to the club's move into the exciting 1990s.

DONALD CAMPBELL — new career as coach. Good luck!

"Croatia aims to be a success on and off the field and be a showpiece of professionalism in administration.

"Radical changes will be made to sponsorship and promotion of the club.

"We'll prove to business companies that soccer sponsorship is money that can be turned into a wise investment.

"The new coach has the full support of the club and the Croatian community.

"We want to go the full way to the top in soccer.

"Respected Australia-wide and regarded as one of our best referees, Donald will be totally in charge of all field happenings.

"His knowledge of the game will be an enormous asset to all concerned."

Campbell, who was the world's longest-serving FIFA referee and a whistler for 25 years, is a former professional player in Scotland and in SA with Polonia.

He has tasted much success in coaching juniors and brings a wealth of knowledge to the position which he was delighted to accept.

"Apart from Adelaide City and Hellas, Croatia is the only club in SA big enough and with a large support to get into the NSL," said Campbell.

"It is a big challenge for me to try to achieve that in the next season or two and I promise a 100 per cent effort toward that goal.

"You have to be ambitious and that is why I am delighted to join Croatia as they have set their sights on the top.

"We already have talked about next season and five or six new players will be brought to the club.

"But we know you cannot just buy success. We want to weld the team together as a unit and get players happy to be part of this club.

"Young players, too, will get their chance if they are good enough.

"I want to develop new training methods at the club from under 10s right up to seniors.

"Skill will be the No.1 factor but we shall work very hard at first on basic fitness. Sides that lack a bit in fitness give goals away late in games and I do not want that to happen to us next season. But we shall be an attacking side that entertains."

Campbell will meet the players this week and pre-season training should start within three weeks.

Top SA radio cover

ADELAIDE radio's 5AA is going into soccer in a big way.

Apart from covering all Adelaide Hellas and Adelaide City home games live with Ian Aitken, Garie Dooley and John Nyskohus, it gives considerable time in other programmes.

Every Monday, between 4.30 and 5.30, Ian Aitken talks with Johnny Warren.

On Tuesdays, there is coverage between 4.30 and 5 with Ian Aitken and Gary Dooley and again on Thursdays and Saturdays with John Nyskohus joining Aitken and Dooley.

Well done 5AA — other stations please follow . . .

SPORTS DEGREE

A new Bachelor of Business Degree in Sports Management will address Australia's growing need for more highly trained business professionals in the sports industry.

The three-year full-time degree, Australia's first, will be offered by the Bowater Faculty of Business at Victoria College in Melbourne in 1990 (subject to accreditation).

The course is aimed at sports-minded students planning a business career in Australia's rapidly developing sports industry.

With over 7 million Australians participating actively in sport, and the sports industry accounting for $2.5 billion of the gross domestic product, sport in Australia is clearly a thriving business which needs qualified business professionals to manage it.

Graduates from the programme are expected to be absorbed quickly into administrative and management positions in sports associations and government departments, leisure centres, marketing, consulting and manufacturing organisations involved in sports.

The new degree will contain core business units from the Faculty's existing Bachelor of Business degree, Specialist Sports Units, elective units, plus practicum units designed to give students hands-on experience of sports management.

Teaching on the programme will be undertaken jointly by the Bowater Faculty of Business, and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Victoria College.

The Bowater Faculty of Business and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation have excellent teaching and sport facilities including laboratories for exercise physiology, biomechanics and computing which can be used to illustrate aspects of the sport management program.

Up to thirty places will be offered in the first year of the programme in 1990.

The Sports Management degree has been welcomed and supported by the sporting industry.

Of the 14 advisory panel members, not one is from soccer...

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ACT

Bryant available

FORMER Canberra NSL star Steve Bryant is offering himself as an ambassador for soccer around the ACT and district.

The man who was once the favourite to the crowds at Bruce Stadium said he would like to get into the schools, organise training sessions, weekend and holiday camps and generally promote soccer.

"I don't think my name is unknown in the ACT," he said.

"Teachers in schools are often faced with the task of teaching 20 different sports. They cannot possibly do justice to all of them so I believe a little expert assistance, such as I could supply, would come in handy.

"Obviously, as I would be doing it through the day there would have to be a charge, but if it cost $25 an hour that would be just $2.50 each for 10 kids, a group small enough to make the coaching worthwhile.

"Then if there was sufficient interest I could expand on to the weekends and school holidays."

— GRAHAM COOKE

Gunning, Cole for AIS YL

NSW State League club Canberra Croatia has agreed to loan goalkeeper Peter Gunning and striker Gary Cole to the Australian Institute of Sport for the first half of the National Youth League season.

Cole is assistant coach of the AIS squad but his playing contract is held by Croatia, for whom he scored 10 goals in the recently completed winter season.

Gunning is a former youth international and scholarship holder at the AIS.

Croatia secretary Bert Kret said he believed the move would further strengthen the already cordial relations between Croatia and the AIS.

The switch to a summer season has brought problems for the AIS which will have to make do with only 14 of its 17 scholarship holders until a new intake arrives in the New Year.

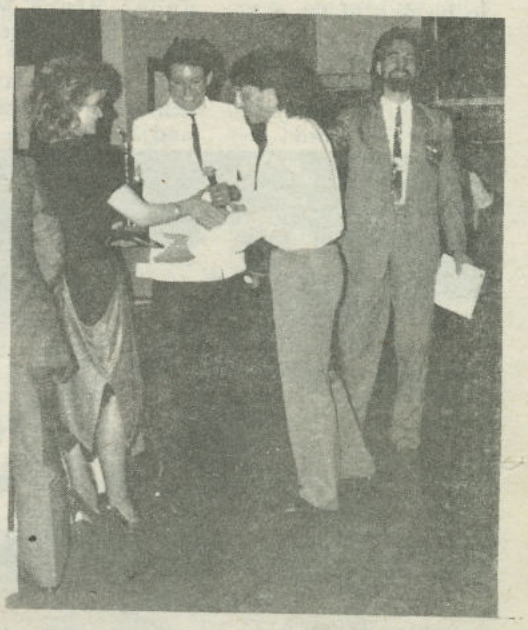
— GRAHAM COOKE

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA CELEBRATES

400 GUESTS ATTENDED WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA'S PRESENTATION NIGHT AT ST DIMITRI'S CHURCH IN WOLLONGONG

Graeme Fletcher receives the award for the top scoring honours in 1989 from Miss Angelovska.

Adam Sandy, Macedonia's utility player was voted the most valuable player in 1989. Here he receives his award from Vicky Angelovska, managing director of CRN BOR, whitewood furniture company.



John Cavanah was Macedonia's Player of the Year and his trophy was presented by Miss Angelovska with Alex Kencevski and Ljupco Stefanovski looking on.

Ljupco Stefanovski, club Secretary gets his medalion for all the hard work allotted to this position during 1989 from his president Alex Kencevski.

A touch of humour; Kenny Wilson was late for his 'bonus' for 1989 but his money was in the safe hands of Macedonia's secretary Ljupco Stefanovski. It made up somewhat for the unfortunate loss of his beloved Rangers to Aberdeen in the Scottish League Cup Final.

Bone Kezovski is the first life member of Wollongong Macedonia. Keith Phipps an alderman with the Wollongong City Council is presenting the award.

Duncan Cairne of WIN4 television station welcomes to Wollongong its newest recruit, Ljupco Dimov. Wollongong Macedonia's new player is an attacking midfielder and hails from Karaorman in the Macedonian League.

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CRN BOR wishes Wollongong Macedonia
the Best of Luck in the State League

All's well that ends well. Wollongong Macedonia had the best season to date in the State League. To celebrate their success Ljupco Stefanovski and his wife Rosa lead with Mr. and Mrs Peter Kencevski following in the steps of Macedonian dance 'kolo'.

Souths punished

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Latif and Craig Foster, the latter proving to be one of the season's most exciting signings, continued to torment Hellas as the home side matched them at every turn.

OSSIE LATIF

Souths might have had better luck when Danny Wright hit an upright but the class and grace we expected from the visitors came instead from George Cross.

Latif put and effort wide, Craig Foster shot into the side netting and missed another chance by inches just after half time before Latif snared number two in the 48th minute.

His second was the goal of the game as he won the ball in a tackle in midfield and galloped past two defenders before weaving into the box and slipping a left-footer under Bruce MacLaren and inside the far post.

In the end it was almost a procession and Souths boss Fergence Puskas conceded as much after the game.

None of his players had performed, he said candidly.

"We are going to have to meet teams who play it tough and fast and the only way we have to get into the game is by playing the same.

"There is no excuse — Sunshine George Cross was the better team on the day."

Sunshine		South Melbourne	
Keogh	7	MacLaren	6
Campbelj	7	Healy	4
Parton	6	Fernandez	4
Waddell	7	Blair	5
Ketsakidis	7	Postecoglou	4
Hasler	6	Wright	3
(Clarkson 72)		Petersen	3
C. Foster	7	Wede	3
Faulkner	6	Tsolakis	3
Latif	7	Taliadores	4
P. Foster	7	Trimboli	3
Lewis	6		

Scorers: Latiff 17m, 48m for George Cross.
Yellow Cards: Taliadores 26m for Sth Melbourne, Campbelj 28m, Parton 65m, Ketsakidis 74m for George Cross.
Referee: Chris Bambridge 5.
Crowd: 6100.

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE SOUTHERN DIV

Geelong remain undefeated at top

BY ROY HAY

GEELONG City is on top of the NSL Youth League (Southern Division) as a result of its 2-1 defeat of Preston Makedonia at Connor Reserve on Saturday.

City went a goal down after only six minutes when George Vasilevski headed home a cross from the left.

At this stage, Preston was knocking the ball around skilfully, but the City defence stood firm, restricting the Preston attack to shots from long range.

After twenty minutes, Tony Bozinovski fired over an inviting cross and Charles Fitzpatrick was pushed in the back as he dived to head the ball.

Fitpatrick picked himself up and scored with the resultant penalty kick.

Bozinovski actually had the ball behind the keeper a couple of minutes later, but was robbed by a defender as he was about to slide the ball into the net.

City scored its winner two minutes into the second half, when David Brough outjumped the home defence to head in a cross from the left.

Cedo Rakic was brought down in full flight as he tried to add to City's lead and Adam Oates made a couple of fine saves to deny Preston an equaliser late in the game.

North Geelong had a very gutsy win in its first home match in the National Youth League on Sunday at Elcho Park when it beat a slick, fast-moving East Richmond team 3-2.

Zoran Roso fired over a cross which cleared the defence and Tony Herceg accepted the opportunity to put North ahead after nine minutes.

East Richmond equalised through Anastasios Kalantzis in the 38th minute, but North replied instantly as Roso put Colin Cooper away and he beat two men before restoring North's lead.

It was 2-1 to North at the break, but East Richmond's Hau Tsung Lay hit the bar, then Steve Kouiroukidis beat his man on the left and crossed for Dimitrios Daglaras to fire the ball goalwards. Bobby Simic was unable to keep the ball out.

North refused to buckle and with twenty-five minutes gone, Tony Herceg outjumped his marker to head home the winner following a good cross from the left.

Highlights of other matches included Saso Becvinoski's personal haul of four goals as Melbourne City JUST defeated Altona Gate 4-3.

JUST played with ten men from thirteen minutes in after a defender was sent off and though Altona Gate kept pegging it back, they hung on to win.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Geelong City	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
South Melb	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Altona Gate	2	1	0	1	8	5	2
East Richmond	2	1	0	1	5	4	2
Melbourne Croat	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
North Geelong	2	1	0	1	4	7	2
Sunshine	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Caulfield City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston Mak	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Heidelberg	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Preston Makedonia 1 (Vasilevski) Geelong City 2 (Fitzpatrick, Brough). Sunshine GC 0 South Melbourne 0. Melbourne City JUST 4 (Becvinoski 4) Altona Gate 3 (Kosta, Markovski, Dimovski). North Geelong 3 (Herceg 2, Cooper) East Richmond 2 (Kalantzis, Dalgaras). Melbourne Croatia, Heidelberg, Caulfield City byes.

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE SOUTHERN DIV

Rogers saves Demons against champions Marconi

BY ANDY CURTIS

GREAT skills by young Blacktown City forward Craig Rogers helped the Demons force a 1-1 draw with Marconi at Gabbie Stadium on Saturday night.

After a tight first half which saw relatively few scoring opportunities in the slippery conditions, Marconi opened their account early in the second half with a neat goal from striker Lopez.

The goal came after a Blacktown defensive lapse when they failed to clear a high through ball and instead modded the ball straight to Lopez's feet.

Last year's premiers seemed to draw strength from this and and started to tighten things up.

Replacement Martinez caused further headaches for the Blacktown defence when he linked with striker Lopez in the 60th minute through a great interception of a pass between the Blacktown defence on the halfway mark.

Martinez sent the ball on to Lopez who took it to the 18 yard line but failed to capitalize on the opportunity by pushing the ball wide with only the keeper to beat.

In the 35th minute came the equalizer.

Rogers for Blacktown steamed on to a great through ball on the left flank.

With the Marconi defence rushing across, Rogers nodded on and then sent a great pass inside to striker Suman.

From 15 yards out Suman struck the ball well only to be denied by keeper Schwazer.

The ball went back to Rogers who from 18 yards out cleverly chipped the last ditch defence of Suman to score in the top right hand corner.

A well deserved goal for Rogers who was creative up front all day.

Suman also played well up front for Blacktown, creating a number of scoring opportunities but failed to convert on any occasion.

Best players for Marconi were Martinez and Lopez while Shipley and Rogers were the best for Blacktown City.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Mautone, Abt-Arrage, Langan, Begbie, Comerford, Gomez, Shipley, Haggar, Bennet, Suman, Rogers, Crawley, Sultana.

MARCONI: Schwazer, Carrucio, Surjan, Mommonv, A. Surjan, Lovan, Suzer, Messina, Lopez, Charlwood, Williams, Martinez, Cam.

APIA v Wollongong

Both teams grabbed their first points for the new season when they drew 1-1 at Lambert Park.

In what was a very nervous start to the season, both teams played very cautiously in trying to gain the upper hand.

David Green (left) of St George & Abbas Saad of Olympic.

Wollongong were the first team to settle down and they opened up the scoring in the 22nd minute when Alex Villella received a through ball and his first time shot from 20 yards gave the goalkeeper no chance as it flew into the top left corner.

The goal sparked Apia Leichhardt into action and after a few sustained attacking raids were awarded a penalty in the 36th minute when D'Amico brought M. Reda down in the box. Anthony Franze had no problem in converting the spot kick.

The second half saw the send off of Apia Leichhardt striker M. Reda after back chattring the referee for a bad challenge he made on Wollongong's A. Piacentin.

The experienced Wollongong side however could not capitalise on the advantage they received and Apia Leichhardt lifted their game and held out for a well deserved draw.

Best players for the Apia Leichhardt side were Maurice Reyes and Anthony Franze while Wollongong were best served by John Harrison, Alex Villella and Richard Vidal.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Butera, Franze, Pettenon, Stenardo, D'Alessandro, Kdouh, Reyes, Bihm, Berausits, Martinico, Reda, Lahanas.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Atsas, McEvoy, D'Amico, Guisti, Harrison, Vidal, Higgs, Trajevski, Villella, Siminovski, Roberts, Petkovic, Piacentin.

Syd Croatia v St George

IN what was a very even game of soccer both sides came away with a point after a 2-2 draw.

They played quite entertaining football in conditions that were far from perfect.

Missed chances were the order of the day in te first half as both sides could not convert good scoring opportunities.

St George lost a golden opportunity to take the lead when in the 38th minute they were awarded a penalty. However, the spot kick went straight to the keeper.

Just before half-time Sydney Croatia took the lead when they were awarded a penalty after St George goalkeeper Saia brought Kardum down in the penalty area.

Gonzales' penalty hit the cross-bar and went in for Sydney Croatia's 1-0 lead at half time.

St George came out hungry for goals in the second half and after sustained pressure, Tresidder latched onto a through ball and put it past the advancing keeper Kalac.

Then in the 62nd minute S. Freestone capitilised on a bad back pass to the Croatia keeper which resulted in a goal.

Sydney Croatia earned a point in the dying minutes of the match when E. Pervan collected the ball from a corner kick and drove the ball into the top corner of the net from the edge of the box.

Best players for Sydney Croatia were John Rancic, Gabriel Gonzales, John Kalac and for St George Eddie Haragli, Shaun Freestone and Steve Dimoudis.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kalac, Vrlic, Zizic, Pervan, Milicevic, Rancic, Bojkovski, (Marce) Prusac, Gonzales, Alivovic (Sharp), Kardum.

ST GEORGE: Saia, Jarvis, Ciantar, Hickman, Haragli, Petrides, Tressider, Dimoudis, Zieterman, Poric, Freestone.

RESULTS

Sydney Olympic 1 Marconi 0, St George 2 Blacktown City 0, AIS 7 Sydney Croatia 1.

Player Agency

THE Australian Soccer Players' Agency has a Northern Irish and a Scottish striker of quality ready to come to Australia.

Alex Robertson has visited Queensland and Western Australia to discuss further signings with clubs.

Manager Charles Mifsud said: "We are pleased with the amount of interest shown so far.

"It seems that there have been a few changes made to regulations on importing players by the Immigration Department, which we will be investigating".

Chile wins Ethnic World Cup 2-1

BY MARIO ETCHART

WHEN everybody at Garside Park expected the match to go into extra time, Dennis Duarte, after a perfect 2-1 combination with fellow striker Ferris, scored the winner for the Chileans.

In front of the biggest crowd ever in the history of the Ethnic World Cup — that proved the correctness of the decision to replay the final — Chile won the competition after a hard fought 2-1 victory over Turkey.

This was the third title for the Chileans who previously won it in 1984 and 1985.

There wasn't much between these two great sides in both finals, but the South Americans were the best team on the parkthis time.

Full marks to Turkey, a great entertainer, beaten in a final that again had drama, skills and good soccer.

It was a spectacle played in a great atmosphere and will go down in the annals of the Ethnic World Cup as the battle of two giants.

Once more, as in the first final, Turkey went 1-0 ahead after 14 minutes play.

Turkish midfielder Genc was brought down just outside the box after a good individual effort.

Sertbas served up a perfect free kick from left to right for Greegson who, with a excellent header, opened the score.

Chile had territorial control for most of the first half, but the speed of the Turkish strikers in the counter attacks created chances that went begging.

The match didn't flow as in the first final because the marking was more strict and the forwards had limited space to move.

Although Chile dominated, its ineffectiveness up front delayed the equaliser until the end of the first half.

Right on the whistle Duarte crossed the ball from the left into the box and Donoso with a powerful drive beat goalkeeper Silkeci to make the scoreline 1-1.

Three minutes inside injury time Chile almost went to the lead, but striker Araujo, after good work from Ferris, missed a very easy chance.

The second half belonged to Chile.

The influence of Carlos Donoso in midfield well supported by Ortiz and Monsalve was the turning point in a match that lost some of the first half's intensity but not the quality.

The Chileans went to the last half with more determination and commitment and the pressure on the Turkish defence mounted.

Turkey had difficulty to overcome that pressure and its midfielders couldn't find the space to move more freely. The strikers were well controlled by the South American defence.

However, the Chilean strikers failed miserably in front of the Turkish goal.

The good touches and control of the ball disappeared inside the box because of the incomprehensible inability of the Chilean strikers to put away several opportunities.

But persistence always pays dividends, and the fatal moment for this very good Turkish outfit came inside injury time.

Probably it was the best combined effort of the whole encounter. Duarte found Ferris on the right; the striker left two defenders behind and returned the ball to Duarte inside the box.

The Chilean player-coach, from five metres, netted the winner and assured the title for the host nation.

With the final whistle the Chileans celebrated a well deserved victory over Turkey, a gallant looser.

Full marks also to the fans of both teams.

There were no untoward incidents and both Turks and Chileans sup-
565ported their respective teams in a well behaved manner, with respect for the opposition and above all, showing great sportmanship.

Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers.

Finally, a mention for Mike Johnson, coach of the Turkish squad, who after the game went to the winner's dressing room to congratulate the champions. The mark of a gentleman.

A brilliant game from Carlos Donoso, man of the match, plus excellent displays from Johnson, Monsalve and Kulwicki for Chile. Gregson, Genc, Akdogan and Younan had outstanding performances for Turkey.

CHILE: Gonzalez 6, Cortes 6, Johnson 7, Willis 6, Kulwicki 7, Donoso 8, Araujo 6, Ortiz 6, Duarte 5, Monsalve 7, Ferris 4.

TURKEY: Silkeci 6, Younan 7, Cootes 5, Akdogan 7, Greegson 7, Sertbas 5, Genc 7, Taskin 5, Tasdemir 6, Celik 5, Omac, Senol 5 (56th Ulloa 5).

Man of the match: Carlos Donoso. Best Turkish player: Younan.

Crowd: 6,000.

Pilar Orellana and Jenny Mendoza, presenting the trophies to the Chilean players, winners of the 1989 Sydney Ethnic Cup.

The Turkish Consul presents the runners up trophy to Turkey's captain, Birol Sertbas.

SALISBURY is keen to strengthen its attack for next season.

Scotsman Doug Chisholm, Best and Fairest this year from Dandenong, may be the answer. He is epected to visit the club later this month.

Salisbury officials, meanwhile, will be keeping their eyes peeled in their seven-a-side tournament.

A striker from Tasmania, who has been recommended to them will be in action.

He has moved to the Adelaide Casino in a job transfer.

WOMEN

Ianotta debut

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE ACT's Angela Ianotta is in line for her international debut during the AWSA tour of Japan in December.

Ianotta, who is based in Albury Wodonga but plays her soccer for the ACT, joins Weston Creek's Julie Murray in the squad which will play four matches — including at least three againt the full Japan team — between December 1 and 9.

AWSA executive director Heather Reid said the tour had been arranged at short notice following the failure of a proposed trip to India for that country's annual Gold Cup international tournament.

"The FA of Japan has agreed to foot the bill for accommodation and international travel, so we are able to keep the cost per player to around $800," she said.

"And that will include a four-day training camp at Parklea in Sydney immediately before the team leaves."

Reid confirmed that the third ACT member of the national training squad, Alex Focken, would attend the Parklea camp but would not be required for this tour.

Queensland veteran Joanne Millman had indicated she would not be available, but the squad did contain a remarkable comeback-maker, Sharon Wass.

Aged 14, Wass still holds the record as the youngest soccer player to represent Australia at senior level.

She was included on the 1981 tour of New Zealand but then dropped out of the game to concentrate on other sports.

Angela Ianotta (right) with Kim Schaefer

The midfielder has now recovered her appetite for soccer and at 22 still has years of international competition ahead of her.

The full touring party is: Michelle Sawyers, Sharon Wass (South Queensland), Jane Oakley, Debbie Nichols, Janine McPhee, Carolyn Monk (Victoria), Julie Murray, Angela Ianotta (ACT), Linda Hughes, Alison Forman (Northern NSW), Sonia Gegenhuber (South Australia), Moya Dodd, Carol Vinson, Anissa Tann, Tracey Wheeler, Kim Schaefer (NSW). Coach, Steve Darby; doctor, Kieran Fallon; manager, Elaine Watson; tour leader, Dennis O'Brien.

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Second Division Review

Watch for Waverley!

BY PAUL GOODWIN

Waverley coach Alex Robertson

IT was not until after the first draw had been published that a club formed by the amalgamation of three clubs, Bondi Marine, Maroubra and Queens Park, announced that it would henceforth be known as Waverley in 1989.

It originally planned to use the rather cumbersome name of MQP Marine, but talks with Waverley Council about the use of the prestigious Waverley Oval included a suggestion that the name of Waverley would assist their cause.

So it was that the new club and its hybrid committee set out on a 2nd Division campaign under its coach Ron Waterhouse.

The club retained its link with the old Maroubra club by continuing to train at Coral Sea Park, but when cricket kept the club off its new ground, early fixtures had to be switched to Sydney Athletic Field as Coral Sea was not considered up to the required standard.

As it transpired, the weather prevented the use of Waverley after the first game against Bankstown, and belated approval was given for Coral Sea to be used instead to keep the fixture backlog to a minimum.

The club lost its first game at Orange 2-1 and after two weeks out of action again lost, this time 2-0 at home to Manly.

A 6-1 drubbing at Waverley to Bankstown with Barry Walker opening his account did not augur well and a 4-1 loss at Bathurst was no better.

Things improved once the side was able to get on to Coral Sea and the first win came in the tenth round, which was only Waverley's fifth completed fixture, when the side defeated Yugal 2-1 in blustery conditions.

A fighting 1-1 draw away to then leaders Granville Chile showed promise only for the side to be thrashed 7-0 by Fairy Meadow soon after.

Mick Hanratty took over as coach pending the signing of Alex Robertson as the new leader and the club began to find its feet.

A 0-0 draw with Gladesville and a 1-0 last minute win over Orange boosted the club which then almost toppled North Shore in an incredibly rain soaked game which saw parts of the pitch submerged at various stages of the match.

Drawing level to 2-2 with a Tony Kinsey penalty, the home side went under to a late winner from Neal Hunter in a waterlogged goalmouth.

The club took its first away win 3-1 at Manly and proceeded to send Granville home on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline from Coral Sea in round 18.

Bathurst showed that they were very much a bogey side by overcoming the Coral Sea factor and recording a 2-0 win despite being outplayed for almost the entire 90 minutes.

Waverley picked up good points on their travels too in mid-season, none better than their 3-1 defeat of Dulwich Hill at Sydney Athletic Field and a 1-1 draw a few days later against the same side.

Those three points cost Dulwich Hill second place in the final analysis.

The season drew to a close with a 5-0 loss at Fairy Meadow and a 3-1 defeat at Gladesville.

But there were good draws at North Shore and Bankstown to compensate for early season disappointments and overall the club would be satisfied with a final tally of 20 points and only 11 defeats altogether.

The introduction of Robertson added stability and on field leadership and the signing of Joe Watson and Colin McAusland from Rockdale made a huge impact in midfield.

Barry Walker continued to be the scourge of most opposition defences, while Jimmy Berry's probing did a lot of damage.

Youngster Juan Lozano, one of many talented under-19 team members, showed electrifying speed on the flanks.

The successful 2nd grade side will provide a good basis for the future of this ambitious and sole remaining high level Eastern Suburbs outfit.

The Annual Presentation night held at the Trade Winds Function Centre Maroubra Junction produced a very popular winner as both Player of the Year and Player's Player went to John Devaney.

The Under 19 awards went to Andrew Constaninou, Player of the Year, and Robert Jerkovic, Player's Player.

A welcome guest was Eddie Thomson, who presented the Under 19 awards.

With Alex Robertson confirmed as coach for 1990 and most players fronting up again next year, the committee, which remains unchanged, expects a big year ahead with the title not being beyond them.

Fund raising has always been well handled by the club and plans for two Art Unions offering a new car as the major prize should assist Robertson in his team-building mission.

Only three games were staged at Waverley Oval in 1989, but with improved local media coverage and a number of special gala days to be held at the ground beginning with the first game of the season at the well appointed venue, match attendances should be boosted considerably.

Australia's very own wall — at Booragul!

East and West Germany have their famous — or infamous — wall, while here in Australia we have the "Booragul Wall". Craig Johnston in his book "Walk Alone" makes strong reference to the wall at the top end of the Booragul High School quadrangle where he and his colleagues, using a tennis ball, played a type of soccer-squash.

Teachers and students alike would watch in amazement at the skills displayed by the young men pictured. They would play singles, doubles or teams with pretty well equal ability.

Many budding champions were brought down to earth with a thud when they challenged for a place in the top echelon.

The writer made one attempt in a teams event, managing to kick the ball twice.

The second kick actually hit the wall and was greeted with applause from the students who were looking on.

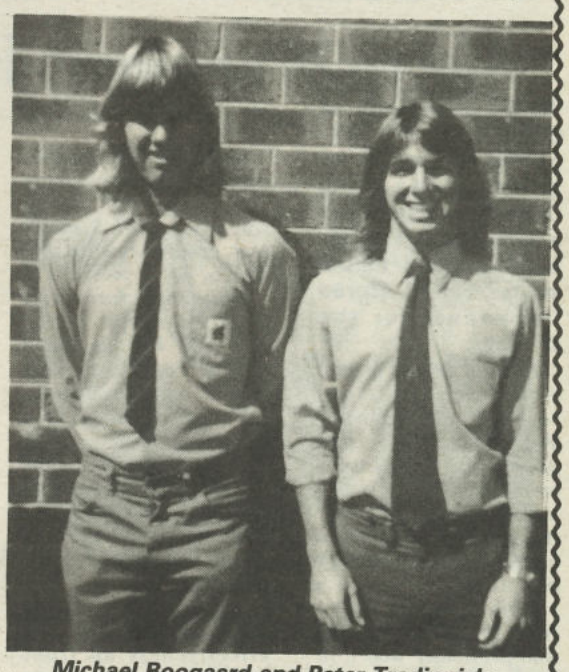
My team always had someone posted behind me to take the numerous attempts that I missed and then send them whizzing back to the wall.

The skills of the young players were incredible.

The sad thing today is that the wall is rarely ever used. The "in" game is a monstrosity of a thing called "handball" where they hand-pat a tennis ball back and forward over a line.

Perhaps the day that Booragul students get back to the wall will see them win the Cup again. Pictured from left to right in their school days are: Michael Boogaard, Peter Tredinnick, Ross Lawrence, Craig Johnston, Malcolm McClelland and Brett Cowburn. All bar Lawrence played National League or above.

— BILL TURNER



Michael Boogaard and Peter Tredinnick.

Malcolm McClelland and Brett Cowburn.

Ross Lawrence and Craig Johnston.

Success in Qld

THE development of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup in Queensland during 1989 has been very successful.

This in no small way has been brought about by the Queensland co-ordinator Tim Wilson.

In 1987 Coombabah High was the lone entry, playing in the Far North Coast NSW Area.

The Queensland Co-ordinator of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup, Tim Wilson, left, congratulates the coach of the Alexandra Hills State High School team that won the state title this year, Richard Morrison.

He is also presenting a cheque from the sponsors relating to travel expenses which Richard accepted on behalf of the principal Dr Lyn Bishop and her school.

Last year St Joseph, Toowoomba and Mt Gravatt doubled the score, while under Wilson's management this year the entries reached thirty three.

The prospects for 1990 appear to be very exciting with more schools seeking entry every week.

One of the latest moves of the Queensland State Secondary Schools Sports Association Soccer Committee was to promote the Cup as the State's Under 15 Championship.

They have obtained a Commonwealth Bank sponsored trophy which was awarded for the first time this year to Alexandra Hills State High.

STOP THE CHEATS!

THE World youth and junior tournaments have proved a resounding success but their future must be in danger if, as seems likely, nations are cheating over the ages of their players.

Iraq are the latest to be found out.

One of their team in the February Youth World Cup in Saudi Arabia has been declared over age and they have been banned from any future junior or youth competitions.

Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are also under investigation.

In some countries, particularly Africa, it might well be difficult to establish a player's true age, as a birth certificate might not be available.

That, however, is probably not the problem.

Rather, nations are deliberately cheating, even to the extent of providing false documents.

Imagine you come from a tiny tropical nation that half the world has never heard of.

Imagine that your country have a great youth team except for a striker.

Imagine that there is this lad just a couple of months too old who could solve that problem, acquire some good publicity for the country, is willing to get a new birth certificate issued. Well why not?

Because it involves lying, cheating, and makes the whole tournament a farce, that's why not.

Did you know?

— THAT rioting spectators stoned the Australian team at Hong Kong Stadium on December 3, 1965?

The riot followed a 3-1 win by the Aussies over the all-Chinese Hong Kong select in front of 14,000 spectators who had bet heavily on a local victory.

Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

Send your stories and picturies to
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 406 BROADWAY 2007
Telephone (02) 660 2033 FAX (02) 692 0649

Insurance sponsorship

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation expects to receive $80,000 next season from new insurers Tolley and Gardener.

A sub-committee of directors of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation is further examining the request to bring the Central Coast Soccer Association under the wing of Sydney Branch.

There has been a strong push from Central Coast to join Sydney for many years.

Most of their players and members originally came from Sydney and there are many family and work connections with the city.

Macarthur District Soccer Football Association has been offered the chance to state national championships next season.

Activities of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation are likely to result in a $30,000 surplus for the season.

Budgetting is the order of the day, and grants for 1990 include $60,000 for soccer secretary activities and $40,000 for the competitions area.

Other approvals, subject to receipt of audited local budgets in two cases, are: Sydney Branch $10,000 and $20,000 capital, Riverina and Southern Branches $8,000, Western Branch $10,000 and Northern Branch $16,000 and capital $5,000.

Projected income for next financial year is $430,000, including insurance income.

The Amateur Federation is moving to establish a chain of retailers to handle its merchandise products.

There is a feeling that the NSL in NSW might do well to work in with the Amateurs in this respect.

New secretary

GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY Football Association has appointed an Administative Officer to conduct the Association's affairs.

Mrs Kay Iredale, formerly the clerical assistant, has been appointed to the new position, which will be virtually fulltime throughout the football season.

The Association is also updating its computer equipment, and the office will be at the new headquarters building at Christie Park, Talavera Rd, North Ryde.

TOP CANBERRA KIDS

Members of the triumphant Giralang Primary School soccer team which won the Belnorth Shield, beating St Michael's Primary 4-0 in the final. Pictured are Simion Foxhill, Aaron Fuller, Matthew Whyte, Paul Murta, Geoff Davies, Mark Djikic, Mark Bailie, Adam Cleary, Stephen Smith, Peter Bulian, Janice McNeilly, Olied Shadman, Nathan Chung, Toby Cox, Jason Porter, Matthew Liddle, with their coaches, Denise Foxhill and Toni Fuller.

Indoor at Parklea

A summer game of football is available at Valentine Park, Parklea for youngsters who want to enjoy a game.

Contact the NSW Soccer Federation on 629 1800 to get your place.

Matches will be played on the excellent indoor court for players from 10/13 years on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7.30 to 9.39pm.

The boys will be under expert supervision.

Comeback in Nepean

THE area covering Wallacia, Warragamba and Silverdale has regained junior importance in Nepean district soccer.

The Waratah Soccer Football Club fielded 10 teams in the 1989 season, and is building up towards further progress.

It has taken a strong public profile by be involved in the Wollondilly Shire Bold Jack Donohoe Festival.

This year it expects to the the most numerically strong football club in its area.

Nepean Youth under way

NEPEAN District Soccer Association's Youth League coaching staff is stable for the next season.

Peter Maday has been appointed Development Officer, and he will also have an input to the representative teams.

A level 3 coach, he will work along with the association clubs as well as establishing a centre of excellence for under 10s as the preliminary step to their moving into representative ranks.

Coaches appointed are Ull Jim Norwood, U12 Marcel Poeder, U13 Brad Earl, U14 Greg McGriskin, U15 John Koimanis, U17 Graham Daley.

Earl is a former editor of Australian Soccer Weekly, whilst McGriskin is a leading NSW Schools official.

He will be in charge of the NSW All Schools team to visit South America in late December.

Tri State success

THE NSWASF staged its inaugural Tri team tournament last weekend at Valentine Park Parklea, and it proved to be a huge success with very close competition being evident on both days.

Five age groups were organised from under 12 to 16 involving teams from the NSW country, the ACT state team and the winners of the NSW Champion of Champions.

The results were mixed, with no particular group dominating which augers well for the future of the competition or some similar one with a changed format.

The NSW Country teams was successful in the Under 12 and under 15 age groups, while the ACT was winners in under 13.

Sydney's Champion of Champion teams claimed the under 14 and 16 age groups.

The Under 16 was particularly interesting as the ACT was unable to send a team, and therefore the runner up from the Champion of Champions was given a second chance to win a competition.

This they did, Lilli Pilli running out winners after beating both NSW Country and also their Grand Final sparring partners Singleton.

The final results are as follows:

Under 12. Won by Country, ACT runners up.

Under 13. Won by ACT, Country Runners up.

Under 14. Won by Sydney, ACT runners up.

Under 15. Won by Country, ACT runners up.

Under 16. Won by Lilli Pilli, Country runners up.

RESULTS

ACT U12 0 Country U12 1, ACT U14 4 Country U14 1, Sydney U12 1 v ACT U12 1, Sydney U14 2 ACT U14 1, Sydney U12 2 Country U12 4, ACT U13 1 Country U13 0, ACT U15 0 Country U15 0, Sydney U13 0 ACT U13 2, Sydney U15 1 ACT U15 2, Sydney 2 U16 2 Country U16 0, Singleton U16 1 Sydney U16 2 2, Sydney U14 1 Country 1, Sydney U13 0 Country U13 2, Sydney U15 1 Country 6, Singleton U16 0 Country U16 2.

Pobran's juggling challenge

ADELAIDE'S Ivan Pobran is ready to challenge anyone in Australia to a football juggling contest.

To prove his skills he provided Australian Soccer Weekly with a professionally recorded video of him juggling the ball 5,000 times without stopping in a 57 minute effort.

Ivan plays with USC Lion in the South Australian League.

By the end of the year he reckons he will be doing his remarkable juggling act even as much as 10,000 times.

So if anyone accepts his challenge, he can be contacted at 10 Wattle Ave, Royal Park, Adelaide SA.

Congratulations, Ivan.

He uses his right foot mainly, apart from occasion switches to his left or his knees.

ASW will be interested to learn of the outcome of any challenges, and Ivan's future progress.

★★★

BLACKWOOD striker Peter Forde has had his 12-month suspension cut to six months.

The Appeals Board decided this when the player appealed against the original sentence imposed after an incident in the Blackwood Central District Apac game last season.

Forde should be eligible to play again in March but will be on a 12-month good behaviour bond.

Champions Competition

In ASW page 15 of November 1 1989, the under 10 Champion of Champions final result was recorded as Macarthur Assn 3 Maroubra 0.

This should have been Macarthur (3 goals 3 penalties) Maroubra (3 goals 1 penalty).

The teams were level on goals at the end of extra time.

We apologise for the error.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Austrlaia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Changes in the youth League

THE Sydney youth league will undergo a number of changes for next year's competitions.

Among the changes are heavy fines which will be imposed on teams and or clubs involved in forfeiting games.

The fines have been increased to $100 as well as payment being expected for the referees.

Club officials will also be called to appear before the branch executive to show why they should not be expelled from the competition.

The drastic measures have been taken following a number of clubs abusing the forfeit laws this season, which resulted in other clubs being adversely affected.

The Sydney Branch has been given strong powers to deal with the offending clubs and have determined that no appeals will be allowable for any club relating to crowd violence or officials abuse.

For the past two years under 17s have played 45 minute halves, but from 1990 onwards this will be cut to 40 minutes each way.

Another major change and one which will save time prior to matches is that the official team sheets will no longer need to be signed by the players unless there is a question as to his eligibility.

Harsh treatment will also be dealt out to any clubs who are involved with games that need to be abandoned due to a crowd invasion or abuse of the officials.

Over the years the signing of team sheets has been rather a non-event as it has not necessarily ensured that the player who signs is that which has taken field.

Any player who enters the field of play as a substitute from now on will be required to first show his identification card to the linesman before being permitted to take part in the match.

Sydney Branch were hopeful of being able to drop the under 13s back to the metropolitan representatives' competition, but this was defeated and the make-up of the two competitions will remain as they were for 1989.

CULLINAN HONOURED

COMPETITION secretary Bill Cullinan has been nominated as a life member of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

For the past seven years he has been in his post, one of the hot seats in the amateur game.

In 1982 he was appointed a life member of his local Gladesville-Hornsby Football Association.

Also nominated for the same honour is Lindsay Cosgrove from Goulburn.

He has been involved in state work for many years, and is a life member of both the Southern Branch and the Southern Tablelands Soccer Football Association.

Some years ago he was involved with the Riverina and Western Branches in setting up the Country Representative series, which has proved invaluable in lifting the standard of soccer throughout the state.

In 1979 and 1981 he arranged for Southern Tablelands teams to tour New Zealand.

The amateurs' annual meeting takes place on Saturday week November 25 at Valentine Park at 10am.

The first speaker will be Australian Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco, who will explain the ASF Development Levy proposition.

Already assured is the election of leading Amateur officials, who have given excellent service for many years past.

They are chairman John Hedison, senior vice chairman Harrie Dening, secretary Frank Wilson, financial director George Churchward, assistant secretary competitions Bill Cullinan and registrar Frank Broughton.

Rockdale Ilinden Soccer Club

YOUTH TRIALS

for teams under 13, 14, 15 and 17.

☆ Sundays, November 19 and 26 at Tempe Reserve, Holbeach Ave, Tempe, from 9am to 12noon.

☆ *For information contact Bill Pilovski*

☎ (02) 59 0251

Johnny Rep recalls Ajax's glory years

BY GEORGE VAN ZENDEN

THE year was 1973 and Richard Nixon got himself involved in the Watergate scandal, it was the year of the "Last Tango in Paris," Pablo Picasso died, the year of the Rolling Stones and "Jesus Christ Superstar" and ... Ajax, of Amsterdam, won the European Champions' Cup for the third time.

"We had the perfect team," writes Johnny Rep in Holland's respected VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL magazine.

"We won our first title under Rinus Michels at Wembley against Greek champions Panathinaikos, then in Rotterdam we beat Inter Milan in the final, and I scored against Juventus in Belgrade when we won our third trophy.

"Ajax had star players of the calibre of Ruud Krol, Johan Neeskens, Pete Keizer, Swart, Sim Suurbier, Gerry Muhren, Barry Hulshof, Arie Haan, Arnold Muhren, Blankenburg, Stuy, the goakeeper, Kleton, van Dord — and Johan Cruyff, the greatest of them all.

"Arnold and I had to stuggle to make the first team.

"After we won our first Cup Michels went to Barcelona and the Romanian, Stefan Kovacs, took over. He was not a Michels or a Beckenbauer but easy to get along with and Stefan's only worry was to keep the boys together.

"I was a young fellow, with, I must admit, a big mouth. I loved to argue with the brains of the team, Cruyff. I thought I knew it all and the press loved to hate me.

"Cruyff should have kicked me in my backside, but that was not his way, he always used to show me how to play. He was a top footballer, I think the best ever.

"He could do everything — he was a leader. At training he could make fools of us if he chose but he never did, instead of showing off, he would help me. He never criticised.

"He made us all better footballers. Compared to Cruyff, we were 'water carriers'.

"All of Europe talked about Cruyff, and this was just too much for Arie Haan and Peter Keizer, who wanted some of the glory. They turned against Cruyff and new coach George Knobel was unable to stop them.

"Keizer and Johan had been mates since they were boys growing up together in the same town.

"Pete, strong as an ox could keep up with Cruyff, but as they got older Cruyff got better and stronger.

"Anyhow, the water carriers chose Pete as their captain instead of Cruyfff. It was the biggest mistake they ever made.

"Cruyff felt he had to go and joined Barcelona.

"The Ajax players soon realised what they had done. They started arguing and some of us spent endless hours in the pub.

"Knobel left the club, others followed and soon Ajax was not a super-team anymore.

"I went to Valencia in Spain and later played for Bastia in France, with whom I reached the final of the UEFA Cup and then went to St Etienne, where I played together with Michel Platini.

"Keizer, I think, missed Cruyff the most."

JOHAN CRUYFF

Maradona punch-up

A teenage Napoli football fan has accused Diego Maradona of punching him in the face for following him on a scooter.

Diego Minieri, aged 15, was admitted to hospital for a contusion to the cheekbone but Maradona has denied hitting him.

"Nothing is true . . . I haven't touched anyone. There was a boy who followed me on a scooter as far as my house. Then I told him: 'Stop following me, I don't want anyone at my home'," Maradona told reporters.

It was unclear whether the boy's family would start legal proceedings. But Minieri's father threatened revenge.

Euro format could change

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE presidents of AC Milan, Real Madrid, PSV Eindhoven and Inter Milan are to submit a plan to UEFA, European soccer's governing body, that will revolutionize the format of the of the three major European Cup competitions if it is adopted.

They will recommend that the World Cup format be copied and that eight groups of four be formed in the Champions' and Cup Winners' Cups.

The teams would play a home-and-away round-robin series, with the top two clubs in each group qualifying for the next phase, where all games would be conducted on an elimination basis involving 16 teams.

This would prevent the premature elimination of glamour clubs, who under the present format can be drawn against each other at an early stage in the European competition as was the case this season when AC Milan and Real Madrid clashed in Round 2 of the Champions' Cup, as did PSV Eindhoven and Steaua Bucharest.

FIFA says no to NBC deal

FIFA has told the US Federation to abandon its deal with NBC for the television rights of the 1994 World Cup and hold a new auction.

Joseph Blatter, the FIFA secretary general, said the NBC offer to the United States Soccer Federation was not enough.

He told the NEW YORK TIMES that FIFA considered that the USSF had awarded the contract to NBC without giving the other main US television channels the chance to make their offers.

"We don't want to start on the North American continent by not respecting the normal procedures. The American way is to offer rights to all networks," said Blatter.

FIFA told the US Federation in September to review its proposal and give the television rights to the highest bidder.

Complaints from Turner Broadcasting System, which has the US rights for the 1990 World Cup, ABC and CBS forced FIFA to pressure for a new tender.

COME FLY WITH ME . . .

THE incident which earned Chilean captain and goalkeeper Roberto Rojas a life ban from soccer has inspired a travel advertisement in Brazil.

In a full-page spread in VEJA magazine to advertise holiday trips to next year's World Cup finals in Italy, a Brazilian travel firm printed a picture of a goalkeeper wreathed in smoke and clutching his head.

"Some people will do anything to guarantee a place in the World Cup," the text reads.

FIFA banned Rojas for life after he admitted he had faked being hit by a flare during a World Cup qualifying at Maracana Stadium in September.

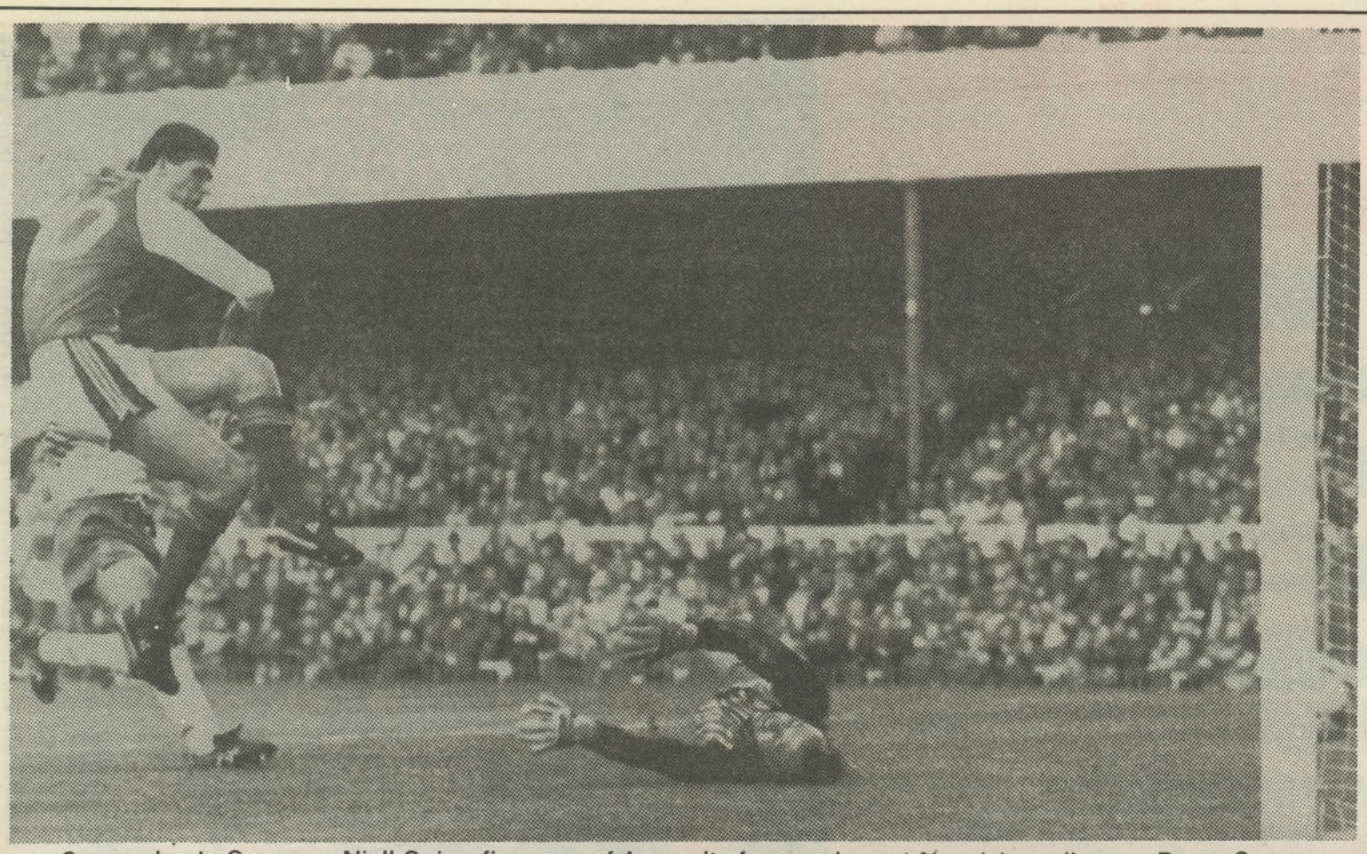
Atletico swoop

ATLETICO Madrid have swooped to pair Portugal's newest soccer star, teenager Joao Pinto, with the country's top player Paulo Futre.

THE WORLD

- **Mark Hately has recovered from the injuries that have sidelined him for the past seven months but he is finding it hard to regain his place in Monaco's starting line-up because Argentine Ramon Diaz and Liberian international Weah have been performing brilliantly.**
- Rovaniemi's British player, Malcolm Sunkley, is the idol of Finnish First Division crowds. Birmingham City's former black striker won a newspaper poll as the league's most popular player for 1989.
- **Tanju Colak, the 1988 European Golden Boot winner as Europe's top league goal scorer, has been suspended indefinitely by Galatasaray. Colak eloped with a famous Turkish actress to Germany, abandoning his wife and daughter in Istanbul.**
- USSR striker Igor Belanov is almost certain to sign for West German Bundesliga Borussia Moenchengladbach after the World Cup finals.
- **A fair play incentive scheme has gone wrong for Danish First Division clubs. A total of $18,000 was deposited in a bank for each club, with money deducted for bookings and sendings off during the current season. Any cash left at the end could be picked up by the club but, with only two league rounds remaining, only three of the 14 sides, were still in the black!**
- Laszlo Disztl, the younger brother of Hungarian national team goalkeeper Peter, has joined Club Brugge, Frank Farina's club, for an indisclosed amount.
- **Former West German international Klaus Fischer, who has appeared in 295 Bundesliga matches and scored 182 goals, has become Schalke 04's assistant-coach.**
- Lillestrom have won the Norwegian championship. They led throughout the season and finished way ahead of Rosenborg.
- ***Philippe Jeannol, Paris St-Germain's former* French international defender, was banned for four months for spitting at the referee in the match against Mulhouse.**
- Champions Benfica won the Portuguese Super Cup when it beat Lisbon rivals Belenenses, the cup holders, 2-0.
- **Goalkeeper Helmut Ducadam, the hero of Steaua Bucharest's 1986 European Cup win, is back on deck after being out injured for three years. Ducadam now plays for Romanian Second Division club Vagonul Arad.**
- A postmortem revealed that Polish star Kaz Deyna had been drinking heavily before his car smashed into a parked truck in San Diego, California. Deyna will killed instantly.
- **Wimbledon striker John Fashanu has set up an agency to bring Nigerian players to England. He's busy encouraging clubs in England to import young players from his country of birth like those who have fared so well on the international youth stage.**
- All-White Wynton Rufer is equal fourth on the West German goalscoring list. The New Zealander had scored six goals in 13 matches for Werder Bremen since leaving Grasshopper Zurich.
- Soviet veteran Oleg Blokhin made an immediate impact for his new Cypriot club, Aris, scoring two of their opening round four goals.

Tibet's "Living God", the Dalai Lama, is also a soccer fan. Here this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner is watching a World Cup qualifier from his home in Dharamsala, India.



Gunner beats Gunn . . . Niall Quinn fires one of Arsenal's four goals past Norwich goalkeeper Bryan Gunn.

Steel City see-saw

THE Sheffield see-saw is on the move again with Wednesday looking anxiously over their shoulders at their city rivals, the balance of power seems to be swinging back in United's favour.

While big Ron Atkinson is frantically preparing a rearguard action to stave off relegation and keep the Hillsborough faithful happy, Dave Bassett is leading The Blades on their march back to the top flight.

In his short yet remarkable managerial career — with Wimbledon and Watford — 'Harry' has seen enough for him not to be overawed by the challenge at his first big city club.

The intense rivalry between the steel city giants is certainly not lost on the chirpy Cockney who assesses the situation in typical, no-nonsense fashion.

"When the next Sheffield derby is played, United fans will want only one thing . . . victory. Nothing else matters and I know exactly how they feel. It wouldn't bother me in the slightest if we were completely outplayed or whether they hit the bar six times as long as, when the final whistle blows, we have won."

Bassett's philosophy, and indeed the direct style of play which infuriates the purists, hasn't changed one iota — and why should it? United's results speak for themselves.

Bassett's 20 months at Bramall Lane have been eventful to put it mildly. An inevitable drop into the Third Division has been followed by promotion back to the Second.

The transformation has involved major surgery, with 24 players leaving and 26 arriving at the club. Captain Paul Stancliffe is the only remaining first team regular from the dark days of Billy McEwan's managerial reign.

The success he's enjoyed so far has been achieved without breaking the Bramall Lane Bank.

"We are not as solvent as Wednesday but wherever I've worked no-one has ever had any money, so maybe that's why the United board have supported me in everything that I've wanted to do," says Bassett.

DAVE BASSETT

"The whole squad has cost about $820,000 and I would say that the strikers Brian Deane and Tony Agana and winger Ian Bryson have been my best purchases."

On the subject of Agana, Harry denies that Bobby Campbell offered $1.6 million to take him to Chelsea. "Bobby did chat to me about Tony in the summer, but so did several other managers," he says.

United's financial troubles have received more media attention than the team during the 1980s and it has recently been suggested that the club could be offered a move to the nearby Don Valley Sports Stadium, which is being built for the World Student Games in 1991.

Bassett, as ever, offers his own highly individual solution to the problem and to the current fortunes of struggling neighbours Wednesday.

"Obviously I'd like Wednesday to stay up but a lot will depend on how their midfield inspiration Carlton Palmer performs. It's very narrow-minded for people to want us in the First Division and Wednesday down in the Fourth.

"Everybody was delighted when Ron Atkinson was made manager and whenever I've met him the bloke's been a different class."

'Southern Softie' Harry may have surprised a few people when he took up the Northern challenge but he says: "I'm thoroughly enjoying life in this friendly city. You have to be open-minded in soccer and perhaps one day I might even go abroad and work."

— reprinted courtsey SHOOT

GOUGH IS OUT

SCOTLAND's World Cup hopes suffered a blow with the news that defender Richard Gough will be out of action for six weeks because of a fractured cheekbone.

The 27-year-old Rangers player will miss a decisive qualfying tie against Norway on November 15, when the Scots only need to collect one point to go the finals in Italy next summer.

Everton splurge

ENGLISH soccer giants Everton took their spending to over $6.5 million to six months when they completed the $1.5 million purchase of Stoke winger Peter Beagrie.

The Merseyside club beat several First Division rivals to the signature of the 23-year-old former Sheffield United and Middlesbrough star.

"He's got certain qualities," said Everton manager Colin Harvey.

"He can play on the left or the right and I think he's capable of scoring more goals."

Beagrie is prepared to bid his time.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge, but am under no illustions about the battle ahead," he said.

Norwich midfielder Paul Cook completed a $520,000 move to Wolverhampton.

PETER BEARDSLEY — his Liverpool side is not having things their own way in a very competitive 1989/90 English season.

Another Keegan!

LOWLY Tranmere have pulled off the transfer coup of the decade — by signing Kevin Keegan . . . for free!

But before you get too excited, the player in question is not THE Kevin Keegan.

Rovers' recent capture is a 14-year-old boy who must finish his studies at school before he can begin to emulate his legendary namesake.

UK Scene

MARGARET THATCHER is rarely seen at soccer matches, but she has a long-standing interest in one particular club. The British Prime Minister is an honorary vice-president of Blackburn Rovers.

★★★

DID YOU KNOW that Cambridge United are the only current English league club whose existing attendance record was set at a friendly match? In May 1970, 14,000 saw them play Chelsea at the Abbey Stadium.

★★★

SAMMY LEE wants to return to English football when his contract with First Division Osasuna ends in Spain in June 1990. Tranmere Rovers are interested.

★★★

MEGA-rich Mo Johnston's bank balance will swell by another $220,000 over the next two years following the signing of a new boot contract with Puma.

★★★

FOUR Italian clubs are after Wolverhampton's English international striker Steve Bull. Fiorentina, Bologna, Cesena and Torino are willing to pay $2.5 million for the ace goalgetter, but Wolves are holding out for $5 million.

★★★

THE strong rumour in England is that Brian Clough may retire from football altogether at the end of the season. Clough is believed to be on the verge of announcing that this season with Nottingham Forest will be his last.

★★★

IRISH international midfielder John Sheridan parted company with Nottingham Forest after playing just one first team game for the English First Division club. He joined Sheffield Wednesday for $1.1 million just three months after moving to Forest from Leeds for $1.3 million.

Brian Clough

★★★

MARCH 28 has been confirmed as the date for Eire's friendly with England at Dalymount Park, Dublin. The match, however, will be cancelled should both countries be included in the same World Cup preliminary group.

★★★

ALL-TIME Welsh great John Charles has fallen on hard times. The one-time hero of Juventus and Leeds United is selling babies' clothes and nappies for a living in Bradford. Charles was born 30 years too early. He would have earned megabucks had he been playing now.

★★★

LEYTON ORIENT have beaten two First Division clubs to sign Wigan defender Paul Beesley. Orient recouped some of the money by selling midfielder Paul Ward to Scunthorpe for $90,000.

★★★

FA Cup Draw

THIS is the draw for the first round of the English FA Cup:

Carlisle v Wrexham, Wigan v Mansfield, York v Grimsby, Blackpool v Bolton, Scarborough v Whitley Bay, Rotherham v Bury, Burnley v Stockport, Telford v Walsall, Stafford Rangers v Halifax, Shrewsbury v Chesterfield, Doncaster v Notts County, Lincoln v Billingham Synthonia, Mossley or Bishop Auckland v Tow Law Town, Scunthorpe v Matlock, Darlington v Northwich Victoria, Crewe v Congleton Town, Chorley or Marine v Rochdale, Hartlepool v Hudderfield, Macclesfield v Chester, Preston v Tranmere, Sutton v Torquay, Aylesbury v Southend, Kettering v Northampton, Bristol City v Burton or Barnet, Kidderminster or Chelmsford v Swansea, Dartford v Exeter, Slough v Woking, Brentford v Colchester, Peterborough v Hythe or Hayes, Maidstone v Yeovil, Gloucester City v Bognor or Dorchester, Poole or Bath v Fulham, Basingstoke or Marlow v Bromsgrove, Cardiff v Wivenhoe or Halesowen, Redditch or Bedworth v Dulwich Hamlet or Merthyr Tydfil, Gillingham v Welling, Farnborough v Hereford, Aldershot v Cambridge United, Leyton Orient v Birmingham, Bristol Rovers v Reading.

Ties to be played on Saturday, November 18.

World Cup climax is close

COME Sunday, all 24 World Cup finalists will be known after 17 qualifiers which are to be played from tonight (Wednesday) until Sunday.

The 13 European qualifiers will yied eight finalists, and the second leg of the African play-offs will determine the identity of that continent's two representatives, while the game on Sunday in Port of Spain between Trinidad and Tobago and the USA will decide which country accompanies CONCACAF group winners Costa Rica to Italy.

RUDI VOLLER — West Germany will need his scoring touch to qualify for Italy.

We should know all eight European qualifiers by early tomorrow morning, with one proviso.

In the unlikely event of Norway defeating Scotland in the match SBS will telecast live from Hampden Park after bringing in the USSR v Turkey clash first, then the identity of the team to join Yugoslavia in the finals from Group 5 will only be revealed on Saturday, when France are home to Cyprus.

The full programme of the week's qualifiers follows, the countries tipped to win in capital letters (where we tip a draw, both teams are in caps):

BY LOU GAUTIER

November 15

Europe

Group 1: GREECE v BULGARIA — Referee: R. Blatmann (Switzerland)
ROMANIA v DENMARK — Referee: T. Lanese (Italy)
Group 2: Albania v POLAND — Referee: G. Smith (Scotland)
Group 3: USSR v Turkey — Referee: D. Pauly (West Germany)
AUSTRIA v EAST GERMANY — Referee: P. Werner (Poland)
Group 4: WEST GERMANY v Wales — Referee: M. Vautrot (France)
HOLLAND v Finland — Referee: E. Nervik (Norway)
Group 5: SCOTLAND v Norway — Referee: M. Van Langenhove (Belgium)
Group 6: SPAIN v Hungary — Referee: G. Biguet (France)
Malta v EIRE — Referee: J. Uilenberg (Holland)
Group 7: PORTUGAL v Czechoslovakia — Referee: D. Syme (Scotland)
SWITZERLAND v Luxembourg — Referee: O. Ben Itzhak (Israel)

November 17

Africa

Africa: EGYPT V Algeria — Referee: E. Ghiazzouni (Tunisia)

November 19

Africa: TUNISIA v Cameroun— Referee: F. Azziz (Egypt)
CONCACAF: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO v USA — Refere: J. Vergara (Venezuela)
GUATEMALA v El Salvador — Referee: J. Diaz Palacio (Colombia)

November 18

Europe

Group 5: FRANCE v Cyprus — Referee: V. Butenko (USSR)

The exuberance of these American fans in St Louis last week wasn't enough to fire the US World Cup team, held to a scoreless draw by El Salvador. To qualify for Italy, the Americans MUST beat Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday at Port of Spain.

SIMONSEN BOWS OUT

ALLAN Simonsen is on course to finish his career in style — with a championship medal.

His home-town club Vejle are top of the Danish league, having overtaken long-time leaders Brondby.

It would make it a hat-trick of championship wins for the 36-year-old veteran, who inspired Vejle to success in 1971 and 1972 before joining the traditional exodus abroad.

The incredible 18-year gap is reflected in the fact that Simonsen rarely finishes a game nowadays.

But careful use of his experience by Vejle has seen them fulfil pre-season predictions that they were the club to challenge Brondby's recent dominance.

Simonsen, a former European Footballer of the Year who had distinguished spells at Borussia Moenchengladbach and Barcelona, has particularly helped Vejle's bright young forward Brian Rasmussen, who tops the Danish scoring charts.

New Italian wonder boy

Roberto Baggio will be in the spotlight when Italy take on England in a friendly at Wembley tonight (Wednesday). On Saturday Italy won 1-0 against Algeria.

New-look Brazil is here to stay

Despite the boos of the 38,000 Bologna fans after Brazil's recent 1-0 win over Italy, supremo Sebastiao Lazaroni was purring with pleasure.

His Brazilians had followed his instructions to the letter and had played like a "European" team.

Lazaroni firmly believes Brazil can only win the World Cup next year if it sheds its image of artistry and ball wizardry.

He is convinced that the skills that have made Brazilian football revered around the world don't have a place in today's football.

Not for this former goalkeeper with no record to speak of, the breathtaking dribbles, virtuoso solo acts and non-stop attacks that have delighted generations of soccer lovers in every corner of the globe.

Ruthless individual marking, very strict defensive assignments, a libero, a compact midfield, state of the art "freezing" of the ball — this is his recipe for international success.

Hyper-critical Brazilian soccer writers, who are not enamoured with their team's new look have contemptuously referred to Lazaroni's style as an "Italo-Uruguayan cocktail", which lacks sparkle.

They claim Lazaroni's Brazil bears no resemblance to the Brazilian teams of the past, who for all their occasional lapses invariably captivated fans everywhere.

Brazilian captain Ricardo — can coach Lazaroni's new tactics win another cup for his team in Italy?

Lazaroni couldn't care less about what the purists may think of his tactics.

They have brought results.

Brazil won the South American championship earlier this year and again qualified for the World Cup finals, maintaining their unbeaten record in qualifiers since the inception of the World Cup, and he can also boast of coaching Brazil to their first-ever win on Italian soil.

Soccer, he claims, must conform in this age of computers.

"Computerised football", "Football without a soul" scream the Brazilian headlines, but Lazaroni is unfazed.

He firmly believes he has chosen the right path — and so far certainly has the results to prove he is doing the right thing.

The Brazilian fans and the media may hate it, but all will be forgiven and forgotten if Lazaroni's men bring the World Cup back to Brazil in July 1990.

— LOU GAUTIER